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LOCAL PUB SAVES COUPLE'S BIG DAY!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MARK and Michelle Leach were devastated when they found out that the caterer they had booked for their wedding reception couldn't fulfil his obligation - just two hours before the ceremony!

But their big day was rescued when the manager of a local pub stepped in to provide an alternative venue and a roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings!

And it was only by chance that the couple, who live in Crawford, learned that the man whom they had booked to prepare a hog roast for their wedding feast had let them down.

Mark went along to the scheduled reception venue, Newburgh Cricket Club, at 10.30am on the day of the wedding, Thursday, May 9, to set out some last-minute place cards.

But the caterer, who had said he would be there from 4am preparing the meal, was nowhere to be seen.

After several unanswered phone calls the frantic couple finally got through to the man at 11.15am only to be told that his catering van had been stolen along with the meat for their reception and all his equipment!

As they were due to be married at Ormskirk Register Office at 1.30pm and the meal was scheduled for 3.30pm it looked like their big day was going to end in disappointment.

All's well that ends well. Shell and Mark with their guests at the Red Lion. (Photo credit – Jon Hardman of Memories Made Photography.)

Michelle, originally from Skelmersdale - known as Shell - said: "I was absolutely devastated. What could we do? I said I can either let it completely ruin my wedding or try and make the best of it and get on with it."

Thankfully though, help was at hand.

When the manager of the Red Lion in Newburgh, where some of the wedding guests were staying, heard about the dilemma, he offered to set aside part of the pub for the newlyweds and their 28-strong party and laid on a roast chicken dinner with trimmings to rival any hog roast.

Shell said: "It was awesome. They were really

Continued inside

Michelle lands vice-captain role for Team GB at Invictus Games

A FORMER RAF sergeant from West Lancashire has been chosen as vice-captain of Team GB for this year's Invictus Games.

Michelle Turner *(pictured right)* **from Burscough, who served with the air force for 20 years, is one of the 72-strong team selected out of 411 hopefuls to represent the country at the games in Sydney, Australia in October.**

The games were created by Prince Harry for wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and their associated veterans and feature sports including swimming, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, and indoor rowing.

Michelle, who has a young daughter Maya, has a heart condition which causes exhaustion, extreme dizziness and unannounced collapses.

As a result, she had confined herself to her house for fear of collapsing in public.

However, she overcame that fear and took part in the Invicitus Games in Toronto in 2017 and credits the games with transforming her life.

She said; "My Invictus journey so far has been incredible. It transformed me from a mummy too scared to leave the house to top girl rower for Team GB.

"It also saved my marriage and gradually gave my little girl her mummy back."

The day after competing in the rowing in Toronto, Michelle collapsed in the hotel lobby.

Continued inside

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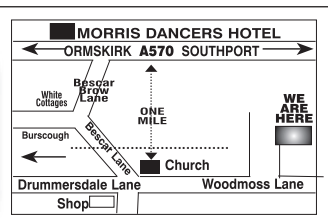

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'Don't put hot ashes in your waste bins!'

Council and fire service issue warning after blaze started in collection vehicle

Report by **Henry James**

OFFICIALS at West Lancs Council and the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service are urging residents not to put hot ashes in their refuse bins after a fire in one of the authority's refuse collection vehicles.

The warning follows an incident last month when a collection crew on a round in Burscough noticed smoke coming from the rear of their vehicle, while a helpful passer-by also flagged them down to let them know what was happening.

Luckily the crew were able to pull into a quiet location and while emptying the waste out of the lorry, in consultation with the fire service, they discovered that a fire had started among the waste contained in the vehicle from hot ash that someone had deposited in their general waste.

Firefighters used a hose reel jet to extinguish the fire and a thermal imaging camera was used to check there were no remaining pockets of fire.

As a result, the collection round was somewhat delayed by the incident but the council says it was only through the quick actions of the street scene crew that no-one was seriously injured and no serious damage was caused to the collection vehicle.

Councillor Kevin Wilkie: 'Street scene staff were very lucky they weren't injured'

And the council is warning residents to only put ashes in the general waste bin if they have completely cooled down or been dampened with water to the point that they cannot catch fire again.

As the authority's refuse vehicles are ventilated, when they are being driven around oxygen can get through the refuse to fan any embers and cause them to ignite if they are still hot.

Councillor Kev Wilkie, the council's portfolio holder for street scene, said: "The street scene staff were very lucky that they were not injured in this incident and that we didn't lose a collection vehicle.

Safety

"We would ask that residents consider the safety of our staff and only put hot ashes in general waste bins if they have been made safe to the point that they won't catch fire again."

And Martin Dillon, station manager of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, commented: "We support West Lancashire Borough Council's campaign and we urge residents to safely stub out all cigarettes and discard of the ashes once they have cooled down.

"Due to the quick action of the street scene staff, there were no injuries or serious damage but the incident could have easily been much more severe on another day."

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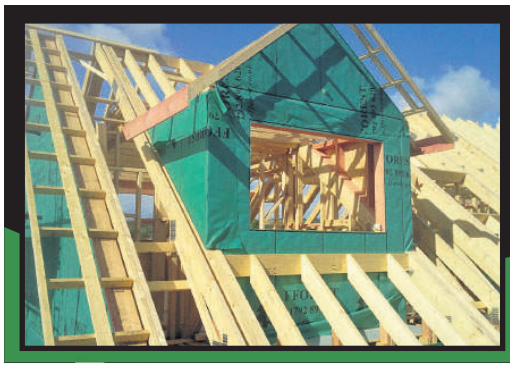

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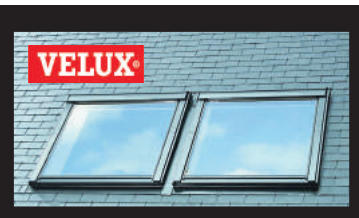

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Bulky waste service suspension sparks fly-tipping fears

‘Sofas and other items are being dumped and the council still has to collect them but without being paid’

Report by **Henry James**

Fears have been expressed that fly-tipping scenes like this will increase in the borough following the council’s suspension of the bulky waste collection service

FEARS have been expressed that West Lancashire Borough Council’s decision to suspend their bulky waste collection service until further notice has led to an increase in fly-tipping.

The bulky waste collection allowed residents to have larger disused items, such as fridges, collected by the council for a fee of £13 for one to five items or £25.50 for six to 10 items.

For more than 10 items residents had to call the council’s customer services department.

However, a concerned local political source, who wished to remain anonymous, told the Champion: “The bulky waste collection service is currently not being offered by the council at all. It has been suspended about a month ago throughout the borough.”

Confusion

And the source claimed: “It is creating confusion. Statistics on fly-tipping have rocketed 400% in the last four weeks.

“There has been no consultation about this and there has also been no indication of when this will be put right by the council.

“Residents don’t know what to do with their bulky waste. Sofas and other items are being dumped and the council still has to collect them but without making a fee, it’s mind-boggling to me.”

Derby ward Councillor Adrian Owens added: “For many residents, especially those without cars, the bulky waste collection is a highly-valued service and the council needs to work to establish an effective and efficient replacement service as soon as possible.”

A spokesman for West Lancashire Borough Council commented: “The council is currently reviewing the provision of its bulky waste removal service.

“Residents who are able to take their bulky waste to the local household waste recycling centre are advised to apply for a free waste permit from Lancashire County Council if they will be using a van or twin axe trailer.

“The council has an environmental enforcement team who look out for littering and fly-tipping across the borough and despite this time of the year when residents are looking to spring clean there has been no significant increase in fly-tipping. If any resident sees someone illegally dumping rubbish they can report fly-tipped waste on the council website.”

Last month West Lancs Council chiefs defended the decision to introduce brown bins for garden waste. Green bins are now going to be used for cardboard and paper.

This scheme has proved to be controversial with some residents calling it a waste of money and others fearing more bins on the streets could cause a safety hazard.

However the council responded by saying the new arrangement is “much better value for council taxpayers.”

Man wanted for questioning in connection with town-centre attack

POLICE are appealing for information about the whereabouts of a man wanted for questioning about an alleged serious assault.

John James Jones, 28, of Ennerdale Drive, Aughton is being sought in connection with an incident at about 2.45am on Saturday, April 28 in Southport Road, Ormskirk which resulted in two men being taken to hospital for treatment to stab wounds.

Daniel Rushworth, 29, of Middlewood Road, Aughton, has already been charged with two counts of section 18 wounding and one count of section 39 in connection with the incident and has been remanded in custody.

However, police say they also want to speak to Jones who is described as 6ft 1in tall with a heavy build and is said to have links to Lancashire, as well as the Merseyside area.

Detective Inspector Graeme Simpson of Lancashire Police said: “We are appealing for anyone with information about Jones’ whereabouts to please come forward.

“If you see him, or know where he is, please contact police immediately.

John James Jones who is being sought by police in connection with a serious assault in Ormskirk

“Likewise, if Jones himself sees this appeal, I would urge him to attend the nearest police station.”

Anyone with information can contact police on 01695 566110, 101 or by email at 1903@lancashire.pnn.police.uk quoting log number 169 of April 28.

Alternatively, independent charity Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Grass cutting delayed after break-in at council depot

SCHEDULED grass cutting by West Lancs Council's Street Scene Service has suffered a significant setback following a break-in at the council’s depot in Skelmersdale.

The break-in, which happened in the early hours of Monday, April 30, resulted in some items of equipment being stolen and other plant damaged beyond use.

Councillor Kevin Wilkie, the council’s portfolio holder for Street Scene, said: “The loss of valuable equipment and significant damage caused to three ride-on mowers has delayed deployment resulting in no grass cutting for a week.

“It is our busiest time of the year and this reckless damage means the teams are behind with the scheduled grass cutting.

“We ask for residents’ patience as the teams work hard to catch up.”

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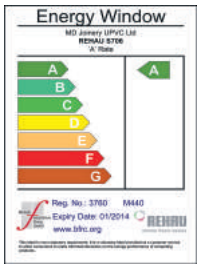

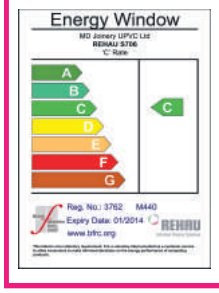

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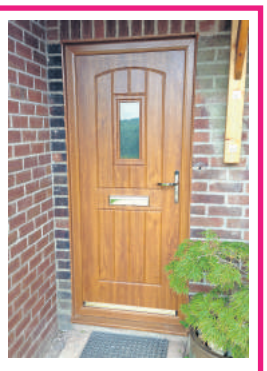

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University defends decision to employ company run by wife of man convicted of child porn offences

Report by **Kenny Parker**

EDGE HILL University has defended employing an electrics company run by the wife of a man convicted for possession of indecent images.

Birkdale Electrical Services had been working on a new building project at the Ormskirk campus, but after director David Poole admitted possession of indecent images, the university said it had severed all ties with him and his company.

A member of staff at the university has since expressed alarm that a new company, headed by Poole's wife, was continuing to work on the campus as before.

In response, the university says it has acted to avoid adversely affecting innocent parties, including students, had the work been delayed.

Poole pleaded guilty to three counts of making indecent photographs of children; one count of possessing four prohibited images of a child; one count of possession of five extreme pornographic images; and one count of possessing 220 indecent photographs.

He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, suspended for 15 months, at Liverpool Crown Court on May 2 and ordered to sign the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years.

All computer equipment that he had downloaded the images to were ordered to be destroyed.

The 69-year-old, who had no previous convictions, resigned as director and secretary of Birkdale Electrical Services the day after his court appearance.

A spokesperson for Edge Hill University said: "Following the university becoming aware of the offences committed by Mr Poole it took immediate steps to ensure that any relationship with him was terminated.

"The building on which Birkdale Electrical Services were sub-contracted to work is nearing completion with hand-over due at the end of this month.

"To ensure that those innocent employees of Birkdale Electrical Services were not adversely affected by Mr Poole's actions, and neither were the university's students due to the building not being completed on time, we have received confirmation from the principal contractor that they have put contingency plans in place, and the remainder of the project will be delivered without any involvement of Mr Poole."

Teenager 'braves the shave' in aid of cancer charity

DYLAN Price is a typical image-conscious teenager but the caring youngster was only too happy to shed his cherished locks in aid of a good cause.

The 14-year-old from Scarisbrick took part in the ' Brave the Shave' challenge for Macmillan Cancer Support and raised more than £500 - double his original target.

Streamed live on social media, and cheered on by family and friends, Dylan submitted to the cool steel of barber Karl Hunter's clippers at the Grooming Gurus gents hair salon in Burscough.

Dylan Price after his shave for charity.

Proud

Explaining his decision to do the challenge, the Year 9 pupil at Burscough Priory Science College, said: "I have known a number of people who have suffered from cancer, including some who have passed away, which is why I decided to brave the shave.

"As a 14-year-old boy my hair and image are very important to me, but it will grow back again, unlike the lives that are lost to this terrible disease. It will be worth it to raise money for Macmillan."

Proud mum, Jacinta Price, commented: "Dylan is a very sensitive young man who knows family members and parents of friends who have had cancer and died of cancer.

"We are very proud of him and overwhelmed by the response of friends and family - and even strangers have sponsored him which is really nice."

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Firework caused barn blaze which killed 'amazing' teen Louis

AN inquest into the death of tragic teenager Louis Simpson following a blaze at a barn in Parbold last year has ruled that he died as a result of misadventure when a firework ignited bales of hay trapping him inside.

The 14-year-old from Parbold had been playing with three friends at the barn at Fairhurst Hall in Chorley Road on Sunday, January 29 when a fire broke out and spread rapidly.

Preston Coroner's Court heard that the boys had entered the barn by an upper window after climbing a stack of hay bales.

After being in the barn for about an hour, three of the boys left through the front of the building and shouted back for Louis to join them,

However, Louis, a pupil at Merchant Taylors School, Crosby, asked them to wait as he wanted to show them something.

Area Coroner James Newman was told that the boys then heard a bang followed by flames. The court was told that the flames quickly spread through the building, which contained around 150 tonnes of hay, and took a considerable amount of time to extinguish.

Louis's body was found the next day in a position near to the window where he had entered. The remains of a firework were also located near to him.

Recording his verdict of misadventure, Coroner Newman said that Louis had died from severe burns. He said: "This appears to me to be a tragic incident as boys have been playing, as boys will.

"The fire has developed, and far faster than anyone expected, and it led to Louis being trapped in the barn and dying as a result of that."

Coroner rules youngster's death a tragic accident

During the inquest Louis's father, Andrew, said: "He was such a loving child, adored by all his family and friends. He lived life to the full. A great sportsman. So effervescent.

"We will remember him for the boy he was. He was just such an amazing, loving son."

Tributes to Louis, a talented footballer, included a touching YouTube video entitled 'In memory of Louis Simpson. Loved by all' and a message from former Liverpool player, Jamie Carragher, a friend of the family.

An annual football tournament was set up in Louis's memory which was played last summer at Parbold's Alder Lane playing fields. A tree was also planted on the fields in his memory.

Following the inquest Lancashire Police issued a message of condolence.

Detective Chief Inspector Geoff Hurst said: "First and foremost my thoughts remain with Louis' family and friends. His death was a tragedy for them and a sad loss to the wider community.

"We have offered the support of family liaison officers to Louis' family throughout and we will continue to do so for as long as they want it.

"Once again, my thoughts remain with them."

Tragic barn blaze victim Louis Simpson

Local pub steps in to rescue couple's big day after catering let-down

From Page 1

welcoming and were absolutely fantastic. And the food was lovely, everyone enjoyed it.

The couple, both 37, had booked the caterer last June through Facebook and settled the bill in February. They had called him just three days before the wedding and were told everything was okay.

Now they are seeking reimbursement.

On a lighter note, though, Shell said that all the guests were understanding about the last-minute change of plan and everyone managed to maintain a sense of humour about the situation - including the bride herself.

Pleased

She said: "We walked from the cricket club to the pub, with me in my wedding dress and people were beeping as they drove past!"

Chris Scott, manager of the Red Lion, said he had to bring in a couple of staff to help with the preparation but said it was all in a day's work.

"When they rang to say the caterers had let them down and was there anything we could do, I said: 'Yes, course we can' and we sorted it out.

"We were pleased we could offer the service that they needed desperately. It was nice to be asked and they were all happy."

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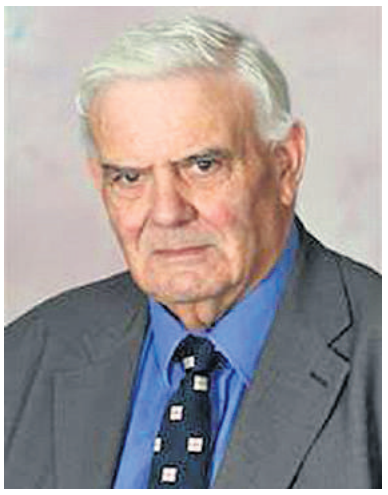
County council wins funding for flooding probe



County Councillor Albert Atkinson.

WORK is set to begin on seeking solutions to flooding affecting people's homes in parts of Lancashire following successful funding bids worth more than £95,000 by Lancashire County Council.

The authority's cabinet recently received a report outlining new studies to be undertaken this financial year into the cause of floods in Burscough - as well as locations in Chorley, Lancaster and Fylde - following successful grant applications to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The county council is responsible for co-ordinating activities by public bodies, and utility companies responsible for managing water, to understand the causes of previous floods, and explore options to mitigate problems in future.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "Our flood risk management team is working closely with communities throughout Lancashire to investigate the causes of flooding, and look at the options to reduce the impact of future events.

"The underlying reasons why a particular local area is affected by flooding are often complex, and due to the way various drainage systems and watercourses interact.

"In order to access funding for the detailed investigations needed to understand exactly why and how flooding occurs in these locations we have to demonstrate the potential benefit to households of reducing the impact upon them in future.

Discussion

"These areas have a long history of being affected by flooding, and I'm glad these bids have been successful, so that we can now carry out this work as part of our annual drainage programme."

In Burscough, the study will contribute towards a surface water management plan, investigating locations in and around the village with a particular focus on how this might impact on United Utilities' assets and operations.

County Councillor Atkinson added: "We'll expect the results of these studies later this financial year.

"Our flood risk management team will then work through the recommendations and develop programmes for further discussion with local councillors, flood action groups which represent their local communities and other key parties.

"We're working with communities across the county to find ways to mitigate the risk of them being affected by floods, and are at different stages of progress depending on the complexity of the issues affecting each area.

"In some places we've already identified work to be carried out by landowners, the county council or other agencies, however these four locations are the first areas where further work is needed to understand the causes, and we've reached the stage of developing the evidence for funding a study.

"We know how devastating the impacts of flooding to people's homes can be and are working hard to develop mitigation measures for all areas affected."

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Mike completes Irish bike marathon mission with a message of hope

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A KEEN cyclist from West Lancashire has just completed a bike ride with a difference in support of a cause that has special significance for him.

Mike Scarisbrick, a member of the Croston Velo cycling club, joined thousands of other riders on a 470-mile trip around Ireland for 'Cycle Against Suicide' to raise awareness of the help that is available for those contemplating taking their own life.

The 10-day event, taking in 67 towns and 20 schools and colleges, aimed to spread the message that 'It's OK not to feel OK; and it's absolutely OK to ask for help.'

And that message has special meaning for Mike, a housing officer with West Lancs Council, who survived a suicide attempt as a teenager and has more recently been successfully treated for mental health issues.

The 45-year-old from Parbold was just 14 when his father was struck down with cancer. Despondent and feeling he had no one to turn to, he attempted to take his own life, but thankfully was saved by the intervention of his mother.

Mike Scarisbrick completed a Cycle Against Suicide event in Ireland.

However, the anxiety issues he had at the time were never really resolved and when he went through a difficult and stressful situation last year, it again became a problem. This time, he sought help with Lancashire Care Trust's Mindsmatter team and cognitive behaviour therapy sessions helped him.

Now he believes the opportunity to share stories with his fellow riders in Ireland and those who put him up for free on the way, have given him a greater understanding of suicide and mental illness and their impact on other people.

And he wants to share what he has learned with people experiencing similar problems in the local community.

He says: "I have always had anxiety but had never truly acknowledged it. It was only more recently that I found out exactly what it is. Once you know what you are dealing with it can be treated.

" Going on this trip has made me realise that mine is just one story and lots of people have got their own different stories and different experiences.

"But the most import message to people is it's OK to not to feel OK, and it's absolutely OK to ask for help."

Volunteers team up to rid village of litter

A GROUP of residents from Burscough are certainly not litterbugs but they have caught the bug for picking it up!

After hearing about residents of neighbouring Ormskirk getting together to clean up the town, George Clandon reckoned it would be a good idea for the Burscough community to tidy up their area.

He then approached Councillor Adrian Owens who has helped to organise litter-picking in Ormskirk town centre.

Councillor Owens loaned him picks and gloves and arranged for West Lancs Council to provide bags.

And after rallying the support of six fellow volunteers the group rounded up a grand total of 19 bags of rubbish in the village.

Now a member of the group, Elaine Beesley, has entered them into a national campaign to clean Britain's streets of plastic waste, with a chance to win a £10,000 makeover for their community.

George says that although helping to keep the streets tidy, he is appealing to fellow residents to stop dropping their litter.

He says: "It's a wonderful feeling when you can see the fruits of your labour and the praise we receive from passers-by gives our little group a great lift and sense of purpose.

"However, people should think before they drop litter. Burscough is a marvellous place to live and let's keep it that way!"

Litter squad members Pauline Twine, Gill Harris and Elaine Beesley with some of the rubbish they collected.

Meanwhile the group is planning to meet once a month with the next meeting expected to take place on the third Sunday in June.

To get involved check out Facebook pages, Burscough Litter Pick, Burscough Community Forum or the The Real Burscough Community forum.

Burscough mum named vice-captain of Team GB Invictus Games squad

From Page 1

She was devastated but she says Invictus had taught her to never give up and, instead of staying in her room crying on returning from hospital, she got onto the coach, fully intending to take part in the swim heats.

However, she hadn't recovered enough and reluctantly had to pull out although she eventually joined her teammates to cheer them on in the final swimming events.

"I've never felt anything like that day in my life, it was a true roller-coaster of every emotion.

"I would have done anything to get in that water. I collapse unannounced at any moment so why would I dive into a swimming pool anyway? Because Invictus taught me that I can and gave me the confidence to!

"I had trained so hard but didn't get to take part - I didn't even get wet!

"So I definitely have unfinished business in the pool and being selected for the GB team again has given me that opportunity.

"To be made vice-captain is just the cherry on the cake. I am so proud!"

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Residents urged to register intruder alarms with council

Authority says free scheme will provide peace of mind and could save you money

Report by **Henry James**

West Lancs Council says signing up to its free intruder alarm registration scheme will bring residents peace of mind

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being advised of the benefits of registering their intruder alarms with the council.

Registration is free and it means the authority can alert a contact provided by the owners of the property if the alarm goes off so it can be attended to as quickly as possible if the occupiers are away from home at the time.

The contact can then visit the property to see why the alarm has gone off and if the home has been broken into they can then ring the police.

If the alarm has been set off for another reason or due to a faulty with the system they can take the appropriate action.

As well as ensuring a speedy response, the council says that registering an alarm with them can save people money.

Alarms, which have a 15 or 20-minute cut-out device fitted, can cause noise disturbance if there is a control panel fault or if the system repeatedly trips.

A continually sounding alarm, which causes disturbance to occupiers of neighbouring properties, can lead to action being taken under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

In cases where reasonable cause of annoyance is likely, the audible alarm may be disconnected by the council following any complaint and the owner of the alarm would have to pay the bill and pay a contractor to fix the alarm.

The alarm registration scheme is only open to West Lancashire residents. To register an intruder alarm with the authority visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/alarm and fill in the online form.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "Signing up to the intruder alarm registration scheme can give you extra piece of mind when you are at work or away on holiday that someone can be contacted if your alarm goes off."

Lancashire Police also run an intruder alarm registration scheme. More details can be found on the council website.

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Town's business chiefs given tips on digital marketing by Google expert

ABOUT 30 companies attended the annual business stakeholder event hosted by the Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group aimed at helping them to drive forward their businesses and contribute to shaping a sustainable future for the town centre.

Held at the Chapel Gallery in St Helens Road, the gathering attracted representatives from local traders and national companies with operations in Ormskirk, including general retailers, food and drink businesses and professional services.

The meeting was addressed by an expert from Google Digital Garage, which offers free training in online marketing and digital skills.

And the presentation, about promoting their business using digital marketing channels, proved so informative and popular with delegates that extra time was allocated for the bespoke training session to continue.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancs Council and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "The annual town centre business stakeholder event was well attended and a great success. By working together we can ensure that Ormskirk town centre has an even brighter future."

Councillor Ian Moran

And Nikki Shaw, of Shaw's Boutique in Burscough Street, commented: "This was an excellent event and the Google demonstration was excellent, really useful with practical tips for getting together a digital strategy. It highlighted to me how I am not using social media to its full advantage.

"I think, as shopkeepers, we concentrate on the physical aspect of day-to-day business and the marketing tends to get left on the back burner.

"I just want to say thanks for a positive learning experience!"

Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group is made up of a range of organisations with an interest in helping the town thrive, including national and local retailers, Ormskirk Business Action Group, Edge Hill University and Student Union, Ormskirk Community Partnership and West Lancashire Borough Council.

Platforms

The group has overseen the inception and roll-out of new branding for Ormskirk and the launch of www.DiscoverOrmskirk.com alongside other social media platforms to promote Ormskirk.

It also provides support for local businesses and works in partnership with organisers on events such as the Gingerbread Festival and is currently looking at the merits of introducing a Business Improvement District (BID) for Ormskirk.

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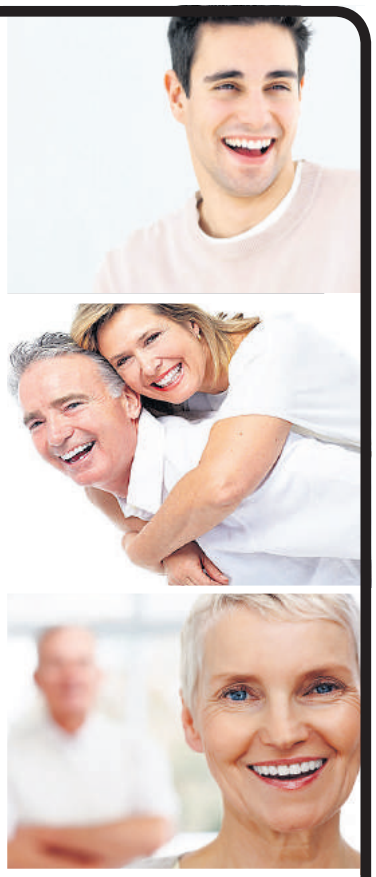

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Former police officer who sold crash data ordered to pay back £367,000

A FORMER police officer has been ordered to pay back £367,772.50 after he was jailed for selling personal data from traffic accident logs.

Nigel Mungur, 40, a former immediate response officer with Lancashire Constabulary, pleaded guilty to misconduct in a public office, conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office, money laundering and unauthorised access to a computer in November 2015.

An investigation launched in 2014 by Lancashire Constabulary's Professional Standards, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Team found Mungur had accessed more than 20,000 accident logs over seven years, selling the information on to John Helton, 37, who worked for Liverpool-based law firm GT Law.

Mungur was once a PC in West Lancashire covering the Digmoor area of Skelmersdale.

The investigation followed a number of complaints from members of the public that they had been contacted by the law firm to discuss making a compensation claim.

However they had not disclosed their personal details to anyone outside the police.

A Proceeds of Crime hearing at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday, May 8 heard Mungur had made more than £367,000 from the scam.

Message

His lawyer argued he did not have the means to repay the money but a Confiscation Order will remain in place until the full amount has been repaid.

John Helton had previously been given a £115,000 Confiscation Order.

Det. Supt. Pete Simm, head of Lancashire Constabulary's Professional Standards Department, said: "Today's hearing sends out a clear message that no-one working within Lancashire Constabulary will be allowed to profit from corruption.

"Police officers and staff are hugely privileged in terms of the data they have access to and members of the public should be able to trust the integrity of that data.

"Nigel Mungur clearly and blatantly breached the trust placed in him as a serving police officer.

"Lancashire Constabulary will continue to act where we find malpractice and wrongdoing within the organisation and take swift action to root it out, to ensure the public can have confidence and trust in us."

In October 2017, Mungur was jailed for five years for his offences at Chester Crown Court. This was later reduced on appeal to four years.

Helton was sentenced to two years, suspended for two years, after admitting conspiring with Mungur to convert criminal property (money laundering) and commit unauthorised access to a computer.

Shocking

And Mungur's wife, Nicola Mungur, also a former police officer with Lancashire Constabulary, was handed a conditional discharge after admitting a data protection offence.

Both Mungur and his wife were dismissed from the force in March 2016 for gross misconduct.

Ben Fletcher, director of the Insurance Fraud Bureau, which assisted the investigation, said: "This result is another victory in this shocking case.

"Mungur used his position as a trusted member of the police to capitalise on other's misfortune, by selling their information illegally to companies that encouraged fraudulent insurance claims.

"It is only right that money he used to fund his extravagant lifestyle is recuperated back, hitting him exactly where it hurts.

"Our message is clear, punishment doesn't stop at a prison sentence, you will pay for your crimes in every possible way."

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MP backs campaign to retain school milk scheme post-Brexit

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ROSIE Cooper is supporting a campaign seeking to ensure that the UK's impending exit from the European Union doesn't result in youngsters in the country being denied school milk.

Currently, children over the age of five can access subsidised milk through a scheme funded by the EU, with the UK receiving support to the tune of 4.2m Euros during 2017/18.

And although the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has made some positive indications about the future of the scheme, nothing has been confirmed yet.

West Lancs MP Ms Cooper was among a group of politicians who attended an event organised by the School and Nursery Milk Alliance (SNMA) at the House of Commons to learn about the health benefits of milk and show their support for a new scheme for children over five.

Formed in November 2011 to bring together key stakeholders in education, charity and dairy sectors to ensure the future of school and nursery milk schemes, the SNMA also highlighted the results of polls showing that 61% of people think that the Government should replace the milk subsidies schools currently receive from the EU with national funding.

Additionally, the polling found that 57% of adults in Britain agree that schools should be legally required to provide primary school pupils with milk.

Rosie Cooper said: "It is vitally important that we all work to ensure the continuation of milk schemes to provide for our children in schools and nurseries here in West Lancashire and across the UK.

"Surveys show strong support from adults in the UK for provision of milk in schools and so the Government must take notice and commit to a solution."

Rosie Cooper with Dr Hilary Jones of the School and Nursery Milk Alliance.

Dr Hilary Jones, spokesperson for the School and Nursery Milk Alliance, said: "Evidence demonstrates the positive benefits of milk in helping children to achieve a healthy weight as well as good oral health.

"With figures continuing to highlight the high levels of both obesity and tooth decay amongst children, it's vital that the Government commits to replacing the EU School Milk Scheme after Brexit, and we welcome the recent commitment to consult on any future changes to the scheme. I'm delighted Rosie Cooper was able to support our campaign".

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See this week's letters on page 16

Fun and fitness on the curriculum after primary school's lottery award

YOUNGSTERS at a West Lancashire school will be able to keep fit while having fun following the creation of a new activity area within the school grounds.

The Trim Troop facility at Banks St Stephen's CE Primary was funded thanks to a successful Big Lottery bid submitted by the school last year.

Aimed at improving the health, wellbeing and physical fitness of the children through fun-based activities, its features include a balance slalom, underground tunnel, monkey bar log, zig zag traverse wall, tightrope crossing, wobble bridge and chin-up equipment.

It will also be available for use by members of the wider semi-rural community to promote physical fitness and activity.

The Trim Troop was officially opened by South Ribble MP, Seema Kennedy during a visit to the school in Greaves Hall Avenue,

South Ribble MP Seema Kennedy officially opened the new Trim Troop facility at Banks St Stephen's School

Three applications for street parties in borough to celebrate royal wedding

THERE have been three applications for street parties in West Lancashire to celebrate the wedding of Prince Harry and US actress, Meghan Markle, on Saturday, May 19.

They are among hundreds of similar celebrations expected to be held across the country as the bells ring out at Windsor Castle for the happy couple's big day.

The wedding ceremony is being covered by the BBC, ITV and Sky News.

Prince Harry and his best man and brother, the Duke of Cambridge, will be at the west steps of the castle's St George's Chapel at 11.45am with the service scheduled to start at noon.

Ms Markle is expected to arrive at 11.59am. She will travel to the ceremony with her mother, Doria and will be walked down the aisle by her father, Thomas.

Millions of Brits enjoyed parties to mark the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

In 1977, it is thought that 10 million people attended street parties for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

In neighbouring Sefton the council has had no applications for street parties in Southport, just one in Formby and a total of eight in South Sefton.

Anyone wishing to hold a street party is required to register with their local authority.

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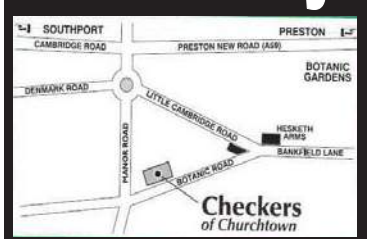

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Town centre parking charges revised in bid to woo more visitors to Ormskirk

WEST Lancs Council chiefs are hopeful that what they describe as "new, simplified charges" for council-operated car parks in Ormskirk town centre will encourage more visitors spending more time enjoying what the town has to offer.

Under the revised charges visitors can park at the authority's town-centre car parks for up to three hours for just £1.

The council hopes this will encourage visitors to take the opportunity to visit shops, browse through Ormskirk Market stalls on Thursdays and Saturdays, take in the latest Chapel Gallery Exhibition or have a drink or bite to eat, with no worries about getting a parking ticket for overstaying during the now minimum three-hour parking period.

The revised parking charges are part of the authority's Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy which aims to improve the vitality and viability of the town centre as a destination to visit, shop and socialise, for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

And the council says the move reflects ongoing discussions with local businesses who felt that the previous pricing structure did not encourage people to stay for extended periods. They suggested the town's vitality would be helped by low-cost parking for up to a three-hour period.

Councillor John Hodson

Councillor John Hodson, whose cabinet responsibilities include parking, said: "The council has listened to the concerns of town-centre businesses and Ormskirk's parking charges now compare very favourably with nearby towns and cities.

"These measures take away the concerns of visitors thinking they have to rush back to their cars to avoid getting a parking ticket. So, come to Ormskirk and see all the fine attractions that the town has to offer, including shops and restaurants, with several new ones opening recently, and the regular Ormskirk Market every Thursday and Saturday."

Blue Badge holders will still be able to park for up to three hours free of charge in any Ormskirk town centre council car park and all council car parks are free on a Sunday.

The new charging structure will be monitored over a 12-month period to assess the outcomes.

New charges for short-stay car parks (Ormskirk Bus Station; Market Way; Lunesdale, Wheatsheaf; and Park Road, located at the rear of Pound Stretcher) Monday to Saturday are £1 for up to three hours and £2 for up to four hours.

New charges for long-stay car parks (The Stiles, Derby Street West; Park Pool; and Hutton Way) are £1 for up to three hours, £2 for up to four hours and £3 for up to nine hours.

The new charges for the Hants Lane car park are £1 for up to three hours and £2 for up to nine hours.

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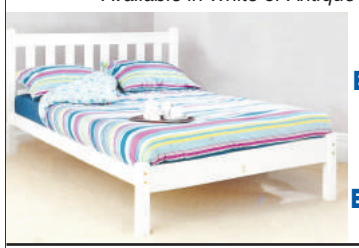

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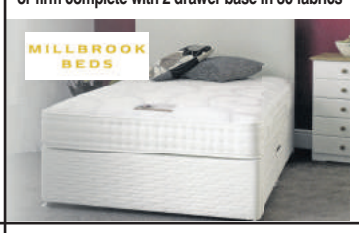

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Rail union to stage two more one-day strikes in ongoing guards' role dispute

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Passengers on Arriva Rail North services face more disruption following the announcement of two further one-day strikes

THE Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) has confirmed further strike action in its ongoing dispute with Arriva Rail North over the role of guards on trains.

The latest 24-hour walk-outs by RMT members will take place on Thursday and Saturday, May 24 and 26.

RMT General Secretary, Mick Cash, said: "It is a tribute to the determination and professionalism of RMT members on Arriva Rail North that they have remained rock-solid for over a year now in what is a battle to put public safety before private profit.

"German-owned Northern Rail want to run half a million trains a year without a safety critical guard on board in a move that would wreck both safety and access to services and they should listen to their front-line staff and pull back from that plan immediately.

"RMT has agreed arrangements in Wales and Scotland that enshrine the guard guarantee. If it's good enough for Wales and Scotland to have safe rail services it should be good enough for the rest of Britain."

Richard Allan, Northern's deputy manager director, said: "We are delivering the biggest modernisation programme in a generation for customers, including 98 new trains that are now under construction, better stations and more services.

"It is disappointing that RMT has chosen to target its strike action during the week of the Bank Holiday weekend, the first week of the new timetable and several events to commemorate the first anniversary of the Manchester attack.

"We are still prepared to guarantee jobs and pay reviews for conductors until the end of our franchise in 2025, with the Government guaranteeing jobs beyond that, but both guarantees depend on RMT ending its strike action.

"We urge RMT to move away from its nationally co-ordinated strikes and allow its local representatives to engage in meaningful discussions with us on how we can better serve customers on-board our new and refurbished trains."

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Crime support hubs mark first anniversary

New figures reveal more victims than ever seeking help

LANCASHIRE Victim Services has celebrated the first anniversary of its four multi-crime support hubs, as new figures reveal that it is supporting more victims of crime than ever before.

Staff and partners joined the county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, in celebrating the milestone at the Preston hub, whilst events were also held at other centres in Accrington, Lancaster and Blackpool.

Each of the multi-crime teams across the county is made up of independent victim advocates offering support following any type of crime, with trained specialists available for young people and those affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime.

The service provides free, confidential emotional support and practical help, working to assist victims and witnesses of crime to cope and recover.

This celebration comes as latest figures show that since April last year, almost 54,000 victims of crime have been offered support by Lancashire Victim Services - more than ever before.

Mr Grunshaw said: "I'm delighted to celebrate the first anniversary of our innovative multi-crime hubs, which are reaching more victims of crime than ever before and making sure those that need specialist support the most, receive it.

"The fantastic teams at each of the multi-crime hubs are working extremely hard, alongside dedicated volunteers to give victims of crime in Lancashire the support they need and deserve. I'm looking forward to seeing the service go from strength to strength."

In addition to calls for service, LVS has visited colleges and universities across the county to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and sexual violence, hosting teaching sessions with health and social care students. They have also hosted hate crime awareness sessions, offering support through equality forums, in addition to supporting conferences and events around modern day slavery.

Pictured at the Preston hub celebrations are DCI Eric Halford of Lancashire Constabulary; Police and Crime Commisioner Clive Grunshaw; and Claire Powell of Lancashire Victim Services.

Claire Powell from Lancashire Victim Services, added: "Having face-to-face support following a crime can be very important for victims and with such a range of skills and experience from our advocates we can ensure they're getting the best possible support."

And Lancashire Constabulary's Assistant Chief Constable Jo Edwards, commented: "We aim to ensure that no victim of crime should feel that they are alone. These hubs make sure that those who need help and support can access it when they need it most."

Anyone affected by crime can access support by ringing Lancashire Victim Services on 0300 323 0085; by email at info@lancashirevictimservices.org or visiting the website at www.lancashirevictimservices.org.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Don't hesitate to act if you spot a pet in distress in a hot car

LAST Tuesday, around 12 noon, as I returned to my car parked on Ormskirk Hospital's main car park, I was concerned to hear feeble barking coming from a parked car.

Soon realising that the dog was in the boot with the parcel shelf closed and the temperature rising, despite two back windows being partially left open, I ran to alert the gateman.

On returning to the car, the dog had stopped barking and I feared the worse.

The gateman advised calling the fire service. By this time another woman came to help and she, by good chance, was a veterinarian nurse. Managing to flip the back seats forward, we spied a forlorn little dog in a cage.

The fire service arrived very promptly and rescued the dog without damage to the vehicle.

After water, and a light drenching of water and a comfort break, thankfully the little dog seemed fine, although somewhat traumatised.

Enter the annoyed, aggressive owner 40 minutes after the discovery of the dog. Annoyed that her car was opened and abusive to me.

However, if the same happens to you, please don't hesitate to act as I and the very kind vet nurse did.

The Fire Service men were wonderful and thankfully the little dog was okay.

It could have been a very different story.

Concerned, details supplied

PICTURE of the week

Ormskirk's Coronation Park returned to the 13th century when re-enactment group Historia Normannis set up camp for a weekend of medieval living and depicting the Fourth Crusade clash between the Crusader and the Byzantine armies. Picture by Martyn Snape.

These selfish owners should spare a thought for the rest of us

WHY are some dog owners so selfish and inconsiderate?

Some dogs bark non-stop when left in a garden to annoy everyone.

But even worse is living by them. How stupid to teach a dog to howl so it howls and barks when left alone in the house (which is often).

Then when somebody goes to the door it stands there barking non-stop. This is so very ignorant.

It's the same when you go for a walk and dogs off their leads run at you. The owners say: "It's alright, they are only being friendly."

How do we know that? We are not all dog lovers, Just stop and think for a change.

There is a simple answer, just train and discipline them.

There's no need for dogs to bark all the time. True dog lovers have them under control.

As for the rest, half the time these dogs are just an accessory and the owners can't even be bothered to walk them.

Non dog lover

Hard-working Vickie merits a mention too!

I READ with interest the report on page 3 of the Champion (May 9) on the local elections.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran noted that "almost 50% of the councillors from the Labour group are now women."

And Conservative group leader, Councillor David Westley said: "I greatly regret the loss of Ruth Melling in Burscough East as she was an excellent long-serving councillor, one who cared passionately about her ward and who had extensive community involvement."

But there was no mention whatsoever of Vickie Cummins who polled 1,126 votes in Skelmersdale South who equally had the very same commitment to her ward and her community involvement but polled the most votes of any of the other usual suspects!

Allan Shepherd, by email

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

We're here to support people with Multiple Sclerosis

THERE are more than 100,000 people believed to be living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in the UK, with around 5,000 people newly diagnosed with the condition each year.

This means that 100 people are diagnosed with MS each week.

I would like to take a moment to tell your readers how by working in partnership with the MS Society, we provide support to people affected by the condition and their carers.

For many of us, the chance to take time away from our daily routines is refreshing and revitalising, but we also know that living with a condition that affects daily life can sometimes present challenges to being able to take a break.

By working in partnership with the MS Society, we are able to do what we can to change that.

In the last year alone, we provided 434 breaks for people living with MS - some of which were thanks to the help of the MS Society - enabling them to take time away from their every day routines and to spend quality time with their loved ones.

I work for Revitalise, an incredible charity that provides respite holidays for disabled people and carers, at our Sandpipers respite holiday centre in Southport.

Our guests have always been, and will always be, at the heart of everything we do and we are passionate to do everything we can to be there for people when they need us the most.

If you would like to find out more about Revitalise, our breaks, or ways we may be able to help you please visit: www.revitalise.org.uk or call 0303 303 0145.

Stephanie Stone, Revitalise

Full of admiration for Pat's fitting tribute to her father and efforts for a worthwhile charity

I NOTED the letter from Pat Ireland (Champion, May 9) who has put years of work into writing the war diaries of her late father, Captain Tommy Roberts, who was imprisoned for more than two years in Changi POW camp Singapore in horrifying conditions.

I am in the middle of reading this gripping real-life story at the moment. She is donating all proceeds from sales to the charity War Child in his memory.

Her father happily survived his horrendous ordeal and worked for years at a school in Ormskirk where he was well respected in the local community.

I wish her well with her book and admire the energy that has driven her to produce such a tribute to her father and aid such a worthwhile charity.

Judy Ingman,
Whalley Drive, Aughton.

'Tax' scam phone call was scary

Re: Scam phone call articles in the Champion. I too received a phone call from someone pretending to be from HM Revenue and Customs.

It was very scary. I realised it was a scam after it was left on my voicemail.

I just deleted it as I didn't know whether it should be reported to the police fraud squad.

Name Supplied, by email

Historia Normannis takeover Ormskirk's Coronation Park

Locals enjoy some food at the event

Town journeys back in time for medieval extravaganza!

VISITORS to Coronation Park enjoyed a journey back in time to experience what life was like in West Lancashire 900 years ago as the popular Ormskirk Medieval Festival returned to the town.

The fabulous two-day extravaganza over the May 12 and 13 weekend gave visitors of all ages the chance to take part in a variety of medieval-themed activities, entertainment and displays.

The group prepare for battle!

Organised by West Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Service the fantastic event also saw the 12th Century re-enactment group, Historia Normannis, depict the Fourth Crusade clash between the exotic Byzantines and Europeans.

Winners of festival mascot competition to be revealed

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE FINAL of the competition to choose the mascot for Parbold's upcoming ukulele festival will be held at Coffee Etc, Station Road, Parbold, on Thursday, May 24.

The annual festival, dubbed Parbulele, is now in its third year and will be taking place Friday to Sunday August 3-5, and will feature numerous performances, music workshops, food and activities for children.

Last year a competition was held between the local primary schools to design a mascot, called Mr Parbulele, and Esme Beesley from Richard Durnings school was the eventual winner (see picture on the right).

This year pupils have been challenged to design Mrs Parbulele!

The winner, who will receive a £50 gift voucher from Unique Ukes at Blackstone Music, Chorley, will be chosen by local professional ukulele artist Andrea Cooke.

All finalists will receive a ukulele and each of the runners up will receive a £10 gift voucher for the music store from community organisation Parbold Unlimited.

The winners of each school class that entered will also receive a £5 gift voucher.

The finalists this year are Rose Jackson of Our Lady and All Saints, Parbold, Amelie Worsley of Parbold Douglas, Vinny Walsh of Appley Bridge All Saints, and Annabel Costello of Newburgh.

Organiser Gary Smith said: "The evening starts at 6pm and we will be providing coffee, tea, soft drinks and cakes. So come along with your family and celebrate the birth of Mrs Parbulele."

Esme Beesley from Richard Durnings Primary School with her winning entry for last year's Mr Parbulele

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Nursery's sports week is a winner for family's fundraising campaign

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Sienna does her sponsored trampoline bounce watched by baby brother Noah.

A NURSERY'S sponsored sports week in aid of a brother and sister who suffer with cystic fibrosis has raised more than £1,500.

Ten-month-old Noah and 23-month-old Sienna Woods from Burscough were both born with the genetic condition.

Parents, Shelby and Martin, have been fundraising to buy them each a chest wall oscillation vest that will enable the youngsters to have physiotherapy sessions automatically rather than manually. The machines cost about £8,000 each.

After earlier fundraising efforts had realised enough to buy a machine for Sienna, the couple set about raising more to get one for her baby brother as well.

Which is when staff at Munchkins Village Nursery in Junction Lane, Burscough - which the siblings attend - stepped in to help them reach their goal with a week of sponsored sporting activities, including bouncing on a trampette (a small trampoline) and tackling a mini 'assault course' in the garden.

The nursery has held fundraising events for Sport Relief and Children in Need in the past but owner, Claire Ainscough, said they wanted to make a difference to a cause nearer to home.

And through the efforts of their little charges, supported by sponsorship from family and friends, the week raised a grand total of £1,568.50.

Delighted mum, Shelby, said: "I can't believe the support everyone has given us, it's amazing. Such a huge figure will really make a difference to our total."

She added that as a result of the week and other initiatives, including a GoFundMe web page, community efforts and a £500 donation by Spar in Liverpool Road, Burscough, their total now stands at more than £6,500.

"Burscough village and the people who live here have really pulled out the stops to help Sienna and Noah and our family."

And more fundraising events are lined up, including a charity bike ride from Blackpool Tower to the Eiffel Tower starting on Wednesday, July 25 and family fun day planned for Monday, July 30 to welcome home the riders and raise more awareness for cystic fibrosis.

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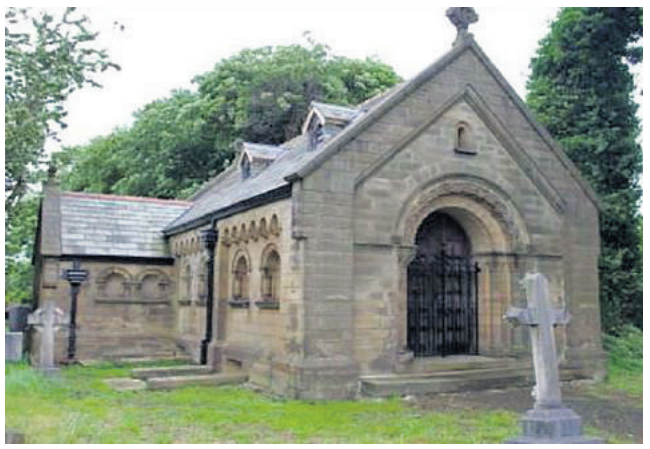
Open day to showcase £100k restoration at Scarisbrick Mausoleum

by **Danielle Thompson**



The mausoleum has been carefully restored

AN open day is being held for members of the public to learn more about the extensive £100,000 restoration of the 19th Century Scarisbrick Mausoleum in Crossens.

Specialist Tim Knox, who was recently appointed director of the Royal Collection, will be giving a talk called 'Houses of the Dead' on Saturday, May 26.

He will speak about the restoration project as part of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust's Open Day at the churchyard of St John's Church, where the mausoleum is sited.

The event will start at 12.30pm and refreshments will be provided.

Ignored

A spokesperson for the trust said: "This mausoleum, situated at Crossens, has recently undergone a complete restoration.

"It was built in 1895 by Charles Scarisbrick whose father had employed the English architect Pugin to build Scarisbrick Hall.

"It lay derelict and ignored for many years but now is restored close to its original condition."

Pugin, who died in September 1852, designed the interior of the Palace of Westminster and its iconic clock tower, later renamed the Elizabeth Tower, which houses the bell known as Big Ben.

The spokesperson added that they are looking to create a Friends group to care for the mausoleum. "Now that the restoration is complete, we are keen to encourage local interest in the mausoleum.

"We want to establish a local Friends group which can provide and manage controlled access to parties interested in the architecture and history of the mausoleum, supply local supervision to ensure that any required work or maintenance be advised to the trust and to develop further research into the history and architecture of this engaging mausoleum.

"The open day will enable local residents and interested groups to see the interior as well as the outside of the mausoleum and witness the great restoration work which has been carried out."

More information can be found at mmtrust.org.uk/events or by calling 07517 082846.

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Firefighters tackle garden blaze

SKELMERSDALE fire service attended a blaze at a premises in Lowcroft on Sunday, May 13 at 7.26am.

On arrival firefighters found that the blaze involved a quantity of furniture in a garden and that the building was unaffected.

They extinguished the blaze using one hose reel and there were no reported injuries following the incident.

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Moores family stay top of West Lancashire's 'rich list'

Report by **Henry James**

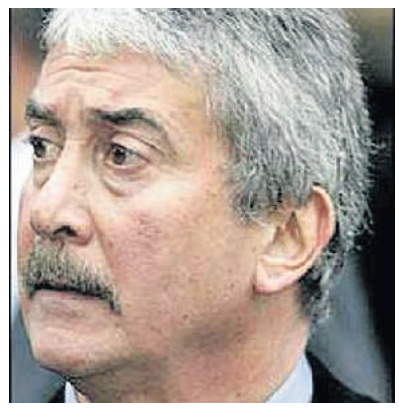
A NUMBER of people with links to West Lancs are again featured in the latest Sunday Times Rich List of the UK's 1,000 wealthiest individuals and families.

According to the list, the Moores family - including Halsall resident and former Liverpool FC majority shareholder, David Moores - are the wealthiest in West Lancashire.

They are included along with other people with links to the borough in the 2018 Sunday Times Rich List of the UK's 1,000 wealthiest individuals and families.

The list is based on identifiable wealth, including land, property and other assets such as art, racehorses or significant shares in publicly-quoted companies but doesn't include bank accounts.

The Moores family can be found at 114th with an estimated fortune of £1.202bn.



David Moores

In 2016 Mr Moores was hospitalised following a burglary at his West Lancashire home.

He sold his majority stake in Liverpool FC to US businessmen, George Gillet and Tom Hicks in 2007 – a move which proved to be highly controversial.

It was reported that he received £90million in the process.

The fortune of the Moores family has stayed the same since last year when they were ranked 106th.

John Hargreaves, 74, the founder of fashion and homeware retailer, Matalan, which used to be based in Skelmersdale but has since moved to nearby Knowsley, is ranked joint 251st with an estimated £500 million, which is the same figure as last year. In 2017 he was joint 245th.

Dave Whelan, the former owner of Wigan Athletic, who lives in Parbold, is listed at joint 554th with £215m. The 81-year-old sold his League One football Club, Wigan Athletic, earlier this year.

Last year he had been ranked as joint 493rd with a wealth of £230m.

And Monaco resident Alan Murphy, 69, who made his money from his toilet roll factory in Skelmersdale features on the list at joint 598th with an estimated £190m. He is known as the "bog-roll king". His wealth and position is the same as last year.

To be included on the list people have to have fortunes of £115m.

Coronation Street suicide storyline inspires new appeal

FOLLOWING a recent Coronation Street episode in which a character committed suicide, health professionals from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Mindsmatter service are urging people in distress to get in touch.

The soap's Aidan Connor, played by actor Shayne Ward, took his own life in a storyline aimed at raising awareness of the high level of suicide among young men.

Kieren Fleck, Mindsmatter service manager at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Coronation Street has done a great job in raising awareness on male suicide, especially coinciding with Mental Health Awareness Week (May 14-20).

"There is a lot of help and support available out there and although the recent topical storyline may cause upset and distress to people, it also serves the purpose of raising awareness about mental health.

"If people are struggling then we do encourage them to get in touch with the Mindsmatter Service."

For more information about the Mindsmatter service or to access their online self-referral form visit www.lancashire-care.nhs.uk/Mindsmatter.

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Free Bike Ability course for youngsters

CHILDREN aged between five and 12 can discover new skills on two wheels at a free Bike Ability Level 1 course organised by West Lancs Council and being held at Richmond Park, Burscough on Sunday, May 27.

Whether you are learning to ride on two wheels for the first time or improving your balance and ability, this session will suit you.

You can learn to control your bike, signal, improve observation and learn techniques to prepare you for road cycling in the future.

Places must be booked in advance by ringing 01695 570258 or by emailing anne.faulkner@westlancs.gov.uk.

Sanctuary team aiming to claw in funds from Bird of Prey Open day

THE team at an animal sanctuary are hoping that visitors will swoop in to enjoy their next Birds of Prey Open Day on Sunday, May 20.

Staff and volunteers at Woodlands in Sandy Lane, Holmeswood are hosting the event from 11am to 3pm when, alongside all the resident sanctuary animals, visitors will also be able to meet and greet a variety of different birds of prey brought along for the day.

There will also be a dog show and proceeds from the day will help to provide essential funding for the charity which relies solely on donations and fundraising events to cover running costs.

Sally McDerby from the sanctuary, said: "You will be able to tour our picturesque site meeting our resident animals, such as Beanie and Dolly the cheeky mother and daughter donkeys, view Holly, Carrie and Simba the cats, in their comfortable chalet, or see some of the wild native hedgehogs in our care being rehabilitated before being released back into the wild.

Visitors will be able to get up close to a range of birds of prey at the Woodland Animal Sanctuary open day

"A variety of tasty, hot and cold food and drinks will be available so visitors can while away a few hours, being entertained by the antics of the animals, browsing the many stalls available and watching - or competing in - the friendly but hotly-contended dog show, all to help raise money for a local, worthwhile cause.

"And we haven't forgotten our younger visitors. There will be an array of children's games available, a bouncy castle and the ever-popular Teddy Tombola."

Entry on the day costs £3 for adults and £1.50 for children.

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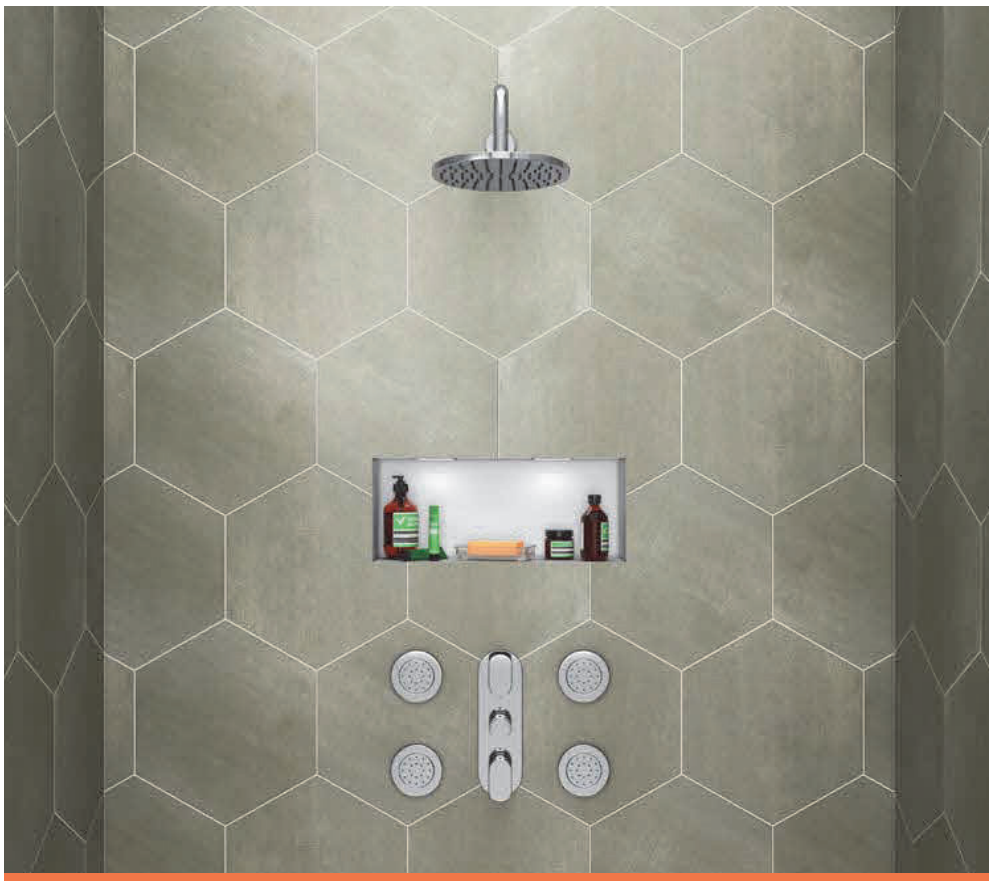

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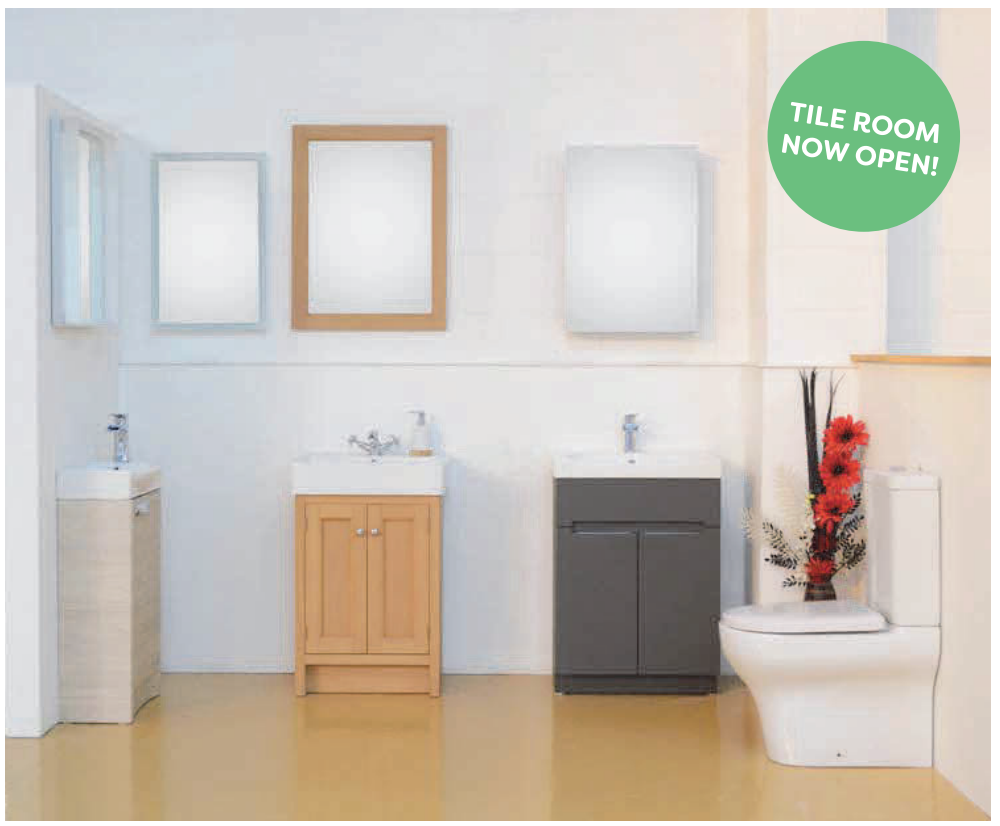

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Fare chaos is driving me - and it seems millions of passengers - off the rails!

I'M coming off the rails - or, in fact, thousands of others are!

According to an article in a prominent railway magazine, following years of growth since privatisation, passenger figures for 2017 were 1.73 billion - 19 million fewer than 2016.

If these figures don't worry the train operators, they jolly well should do.

The article, by a respected rail expert, largely blames this 1.1% slump in the sale of season tickets, on changing working practices, with the traditional five-day working week becoming less common and many folk no longer working a strict 9 to 5, meaning that buying off-peak tickets works out cheaper.

You can, of course, add to that the increasing number of people working from home using their computers.

And I imagine he is quite right, and maybe the railway companies should seriously consider more flexible 'seasons' for any three or four days out of the traditional five perhaps.

But it also seems to me that they should also be thinking in terms of the long-distance and leisure market.

When I was a regular train traveller, sometimes covering many hundreds of miles in a week, train travel was simpler - very much simpler - than it is now.

For instance, if I wished to travel from Liverpool to Norwich (which I did several times a year) I could buy a full return or, with time restrictions, a 'saver'.

With either of these options you could choose 'via London' or 'not valid via London'.

It cost the same either way and, in fact, the savvy individual would choose 'via London' because this ticket was valid either as the name implies for travel changing in the capital (and the underground journey was free too) or on the so-called 'direct' service.

Believe it or not, there is still a train from Lime Street to Norwich every hour. It is a magical mystery tour of the Peak District and the Fens and takes as long as the 'via' but it is accomplished on one train and the scenery is beautiful.

Anyway, I always bought a 'via' ticket though I only occasionally actually travelled via London.

You can, of course, still travel by either route, but you must specify exactly the route you wish to take and stick to it.

And this is where things come unstuck. On the 'direct'train you can still buy a full 'open' return, usable at any time of the day, there or back.

Or you can buy 'advance' single tickets which can work out far cheaper - but you MUST travel on a particular timed train and your ticket is not valid on the services of other train operators in the event of breakdowns or other calamities.

So yes, you can now get to Norwich and back more cheaply than ever - but there are serious 'buts' and if you play with your computer for long enough you can quite possibly find it cheaper still if you bought two or three different tickets covering places en-route.

Probably they too would have their own time/day restrictions and woe betide you if you break them as you could end up paying much, much more for your journey than you counted on.

Most rail insiders agree that a complete review of the ticketing system is needed and I do not claim to be the oracle that can save our railways. What I am pretty sure of though is that personally I would be far more happy being able simply to go down to any station and just ask for a ticket to wherever and be given perhaps three choices only as to what sort of ticket I wanted.

Of course there would be winners and losers, but at least you would know what you were paying for and wouldn't have to be a computer genius hopefully to bag the best bargain.

Apart from anything else, how galling it must be if you have just spent, say, £100 on a ticket and found the clever so-and-so sitting beside you had paid £25 for the same thing!

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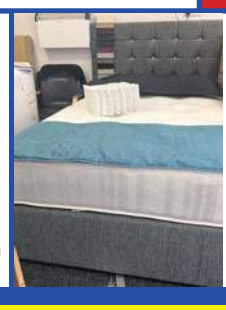

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NEW DATA PROTECTION RULES
What does it mean for your small business?

You will no doubt have heard the 'hype' surrounding the new data protection rules coming into force on 25 May 2018. The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is set to overhaul how your business processes and handles data. Just because you may run only a modest business does not mean you can 'bury your head in the sand' in relation to these reforms.

Accountability

Under GDPR, the "destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to" peoples' data will have to be reported to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) (as well as the person who it is about) within 72 hours where it could have a detrimental impact on the person or "result in a risk for the rights and freedoms of individuals".

Opt in not Opt out

When you are relying on consent to lawfully use a person's information you must clearly explain that consent is being given and there has to be a clear "positive opt-in" rather than an "opt-out" system. This is very different from the presumed consent model under which many businesses operate at present.

Right to be forgotten

The new regulation also gives individuals the power to have their personal data erased in some circumstances e.g. where it is no longer necessary for the purpose it was collected, if consent is withdrawn or if there is no legitimate interest to keep it.

Specific protection for children

Since children are generally more vulnerable and less aware of risks, GDPR includes parental consent for children up to age 16.

Fines

One of the biggest, and potentially crippling consequence of the GDPR for your business, is the power for regulators to fine businesses that do not comply with it - up to £20,000,000 or 4% of turnover.

Preparing your business

GDPR will have a varying and wide ranging impacts on all sorts of businesses and organisations from preparing new data policies, updating procedures, appointing a data controller and following the 12 step guide produced by the ICO

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Care trust team aiming to get more people involved in health research

A TEAM of research practitioners are looking to improve services and treatments by encouraging more people in Lancashire to get involved in health research.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's research department lead and contribute to a wide range of initiatives, which benefit many communities across the county.

Based at the newly-opened National Institute for Health Research Lancashire Clinical Research Facility in Preston, the team are striving to get people talking about research and raise awareness of the opportunities that are happening on their doorstep.

The 'Get The Research Bug' Campaign is an initiative to get more people involved in research by promoting the benefits and importance of taking part in research and to develop the research opportunities available for local people.

The team are looking to increase the amount of research projects carried out and participated in across the trust by making sure that every service user and carer has the opportunity to take part in research. The team is also working to build relationships with more local research networks in order to deliver opportunities across Lancashire.

Katie Sinnott, Research Nurse at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "Research truly is key to the development of the NHS.

"We started the 'Get The Research Bug' campaign to encourage people to start asking what opportunities there are available for them and for our clinicians to know that research is happening and for them be able to suggest these opportunities to our service users and patients."

For more information visit www.lancashire-care.nhs.uk/research-development, email research@lancashirecare.nhs.uk or call 01772 773498.

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Friendship group issue 'come and join us' call

THE Ormskirk & Southport district branch of The Oddfellows Society, which aims to promote friendship in the two towns and surrounding areas, is inviting potential new recruits to join them for their summer schedule.

More than nine million people of all ages in the UK say they are lonely either often or always, according to research by The Co-Op and the Red Cross.

The Oddfellows aim to prevent this by encouraging people to go along to an event, meet their members and find out what they can offer.

Judith Catton social events organiser for the branch, said: "We're helping people to forge new friendships. We provide the perfect opportunity for people to make new friendships in a really easy, relaxed way.

"We want to make sure that people are resisting the urge to stay in and instead come and join us."

The Oddfellows Society in Ormskirk and Southport have recently finalised their latest social events diary, with trips and activities running until the end of November.

To receive a copy or to find out more, call Judith on 01704 545279 or email judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk.

St Bede's team map route to county games finals

The orienteering team from St Bede's Catholic High School

PUPILS from St Bede's Catholic High are the latest to secure a place at the largest youth sporting event in the county.

The team from the school in St Anne's Road, Ormskirk plotted a route to success in an inclusive orienteering competition against five rivals at Tarleton Academy.

They will now represent West Lancashire at the SPAR Lancashire School Games county finals on July 3 at Blackpool's Stanley Park.

There they will compete against teams from 14 other Lancashire districts in a bid to be crowned county champions in inclusive orienteering.

Organised by Active Lancashire, the SPAR Lancashire School Games comprises a series of inclusive sporting events for all school children across the county.

More than 3,500 children from schools across the county's 15 districts are battling it out for a place at the finals in 16 sports including gymnastics, football, athletics, mixed cricket and touch rugby.

New additions to the games line-up have also been introduced for 2018, including quick sticks and quad kids.

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Briars Lock offers a stunning collection of two-, three- and four-bedroom new homes in the idyllic village of Burscough.

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This thriving community is nestled north of Ormskirk and south of Rufford, with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal running through it.

In town there are a selection of everyday amenities to hand, and Burscough Wharf retail park lies just a short walk away for all your shopping needs. Here you'll find all your favourite high street brands, as well as a host of food and drink outlets and a lively art scene.

Ideally located for families, Briars Lock has a selection of schools within walking distance. The nearby Burscough Village Primary School was recently rated as 'outstanding' in its latest Ofstead report, while St John's Catholic Primary School and Burscough Bridge Methodist School also received a rating of 'good'.

Burscough offers excellent transport links, with two railway stations, Burscough Bridge and Burscough Junction. Road links are also good, with the M6 bypassing the village to the east.

With properties from just £184,995 and a range of financial support schemes available to prospective house hunters in the region, there's never been a better time to buy at Briars Lock.

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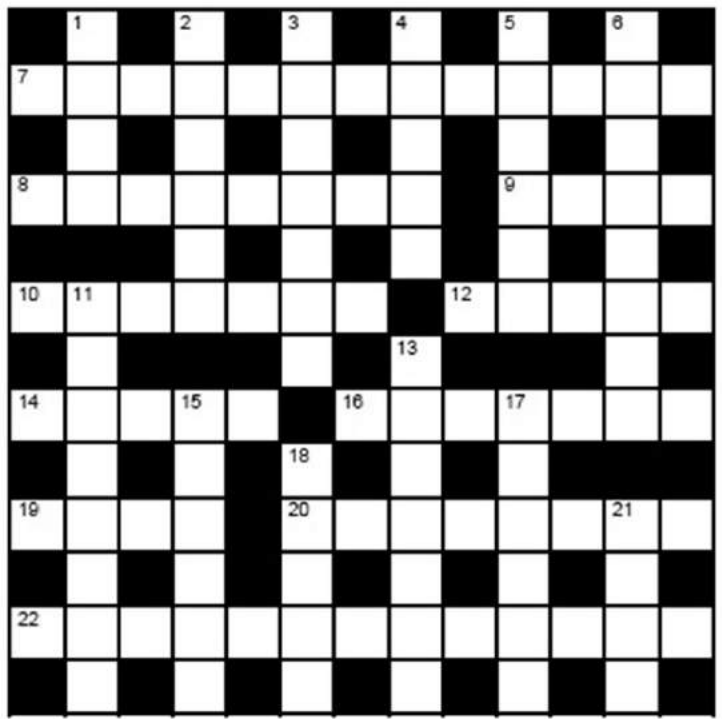

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Ravine. 8. Keeper. 9. Past. 10. Inferior. 11. Syringe. 13. Otter. 15. Abbey. 17. Readily. 20. Honolulu. 21. Vest. 22. Mullet. 23. Acidic.
Down: 1. Galaxy. 2. Silt. 3. Besiege. 4. Skiff. 5. Serrated. 6. Revoke. 12. Ice lolly. 14. Regular. 16. Blow up. 18. Lassie. 19. Junta. 21. Void.

ACROSS

7. Collective term for sweets, chocolates, cakes etc. (13)
8. Having total belief in the reliability, truth or ability of someone (8)
9. Lazy, not in use (4)
10. Terrestrial (7)
12. Consumption (5)
14. Archaic literary term meaning to strike with a firm blow (5)
16. Someone offering information, usually for money, on the outcome of a horse race (7)
19. Young salmon (4)
20. Write or carve words or symbols on something (8)
22. Person who helps to organise the way an organisation functions (13)

DOWN

1. Look angry or sullen; scowl (4)
2. Counterbalance (6)
3. Brief struggle or fight (7)
4. The Old and New Testaments collectively (5)
5. Foolish, outrageous or amusing behaviour (6)
6. Separate introductory section of a literary, dramatic, or musical work (8)
11. Informal term for an attractive escort accompanying a celebrity at an event (3, 5)
13. Hairy (7)
15. Very hot and dry (6)
17. Long, thin line or mark of a different substance or colour to its surroundings (6)
18. Furiously angry (5)
21. A rough and bad mannered person (4)

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Choir aiming to hit the high notes for charity

FRESH from a recent trip to Europe, Aughton Male Voice Choir are set to perform another fundraising concert entitled *Sacred, Stage and Shows* at Christ Church, Waterloo on Friday, May 18.

The concert will get underway at 7.30pm and tickets are priced at £7 with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

The choir have recently visited Holland where they sung to a large congregation at the Basilica of St Nicholas in Amsterdam to mark the Durth Second World War Remembrance Day.

And the local songsters also gave a performance on the sea front at Noordwijk at a memorial commemorating British ships sunk by German U-boats during the First World War.

For anyone planning to attend the concert, Christ Church is at the junction of Crosby Road South and Alexandra Road in Waterloo, opposite the police station. It should not be confused with Old Christ Church, also on Alexandra Road.

Pam McLoughlin, on behalf of the church, said: "This was an excellent concert last year and we would love more people to get to hear about it and come and enjoy it."

Got a story? Ring the Champion News Desk on 01704 392400 or email us at editorial@champnews.com

County to seek funds to improve broadband links for rural business

LANCASHIRE County Council is to bid for funding to improve broadband connections for rural businesses.

The authority's cabinet has agreed to bid for £3m from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

If successful, £2m would be added from the county council's own funds, and private sector contributions would also be sought.

County Councillor Michael Green, cabinet member for economic development, environment and planning, said: "For local businesses, broadband connects them with new customers and opens up new markets, and creates new jobs for local residents. It also reduces the difference between companies, giving them a more level playing field, regardless of where they're based.

"If our bid for funding is a success, it will bring increased coverage and increased speeds in harder to-reach and more isolated rural areas. These areas tend to be avoided by commercial providers due to cost, and are also more likely to have poor mobile phone 4G service connectivity.

"While this scheme is mainly aimed at helping business, superfast broadband in rural areas provides important connections for people and access to services that they couldn't find locally."

Lancashire has already been at the forefront of superfast broadband delivery in the UK, and the first stage of the programme in the county is now complete.

County Councillor Michael Green

The superfast broadband programme is designed to provide investment in areas which aren't included in any commercial plans. It has already delivered superfast speeds to 136,000 premises and is scheduled to provide them to another 11,283 by the end of this year.

According to Thinkbroadband.com, 95% of the UK has superfast broadband coverage, compared to 97% of Lancashire.

Once stage two has been completed, around 17,000 properties will still be without superfast broadband access.

The outcome of the bid is likely to be known in autumn 2018.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

CHAPEL GALLERY ACTIVITIES & CLASSES: NEW PROGRAMME LAUNCHED!

Chapel Gallery, West Lancashire Borough Council's public art gallery, is at the heart of Ormskirk Town Centre, with two floors of exhibitions, a great Craft & Design Shop and a newly refurbished Café. This fantastic venue is now fully accessible with the addition of a lift and internal renovations, made possible through a successful Arts Council England lottery grant that enables the gallery to provide even more exhibitions, performances and activities.

The new Activities & Classes programme is now available and includes a broad range of sessions, from Yoga, Qi Gong, Dancing and Creative Writing to Painting, Textiles and Art Clubs, there are classes for all ages and abilities.

Half Term Holiday
Every school holiday, Chapel Gallery offers plenty of activities to entertain younger visitors. From craft tables, games and drama sessions.

Lancashire Open Exhibition
Chapel Gallery hosts exhibitions by artists such as David Hockney and Peter Blake, drawing visitors to the town from across the UK, and also curates shows that bring both regional and local artist together. One of the most popular events, is the annual Lancashire Open Exhibition where amateur and professional artists come together. Lancashire Open Exhibition Entry Forms will be available from Saturday 9 June.

The Gallery Café: New partner announced!
Chapel Gallery are pleased to announce its new Café partner from June, the award winning Modern Caterer.

The Gallery Café focus is on healthy, wholesome, home-cooked food with daily specials and seasonal menus, from breakfasts to light lunches and traditional homemade baking, using the region's finest food and drink.

www.themoderncaterer.com/gingerbread
Instagram @moderncaterer_

Hire the Venue
Chapel Gallery is a unique building with contemporary lighting features and modern amenities, including projectors, interactive whiteboards and WiFi throughout. The venue is ideal for regular bookings, corporate events and special occasions such as weddings and Christenings.

Individual rooms are also available for hire, as is the whole facility, with hospitality provided by the Modern Caterer, planned to cater for your events.

For information on anything mentioned here, including Programmes and Entry Forms, visit www.chapelgallery.org.uk or follow @chapelgallery01 on Facebook and Twitter.

Chapel Gallery, St. Helen's Road, Ormskirk L39 4QR
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THE owner of a Southport-based eatery has shared his secrets for success after branching out to quadruple the business as well as taking on not one but two bars as well!

Russell Jones opened Auberge on Seabank Road in May 1993 as a simple, rustic French bistro with places for 30 guests. It quickly gained a fantastic reputation for it's quality food, efficient service and reasonable prices - paving the way for a sister restaurant in Tarleton in 1996, which they also named Auberge.

They sold this in 1999 to focus all of their time and energy on expanding their original town-centre venue, now renamed the Auberge Brasserie and in 2003 they added a bigger, grander kitchen, much more serviceable bar area and increased mezzanine space for private parties and events.

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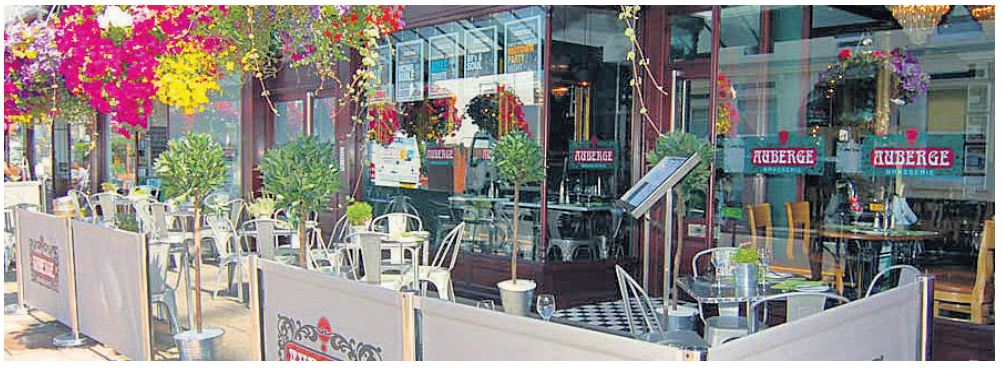
25 Years in Business

It has now grown to 120 covers plus al fresco dining terrace, from the baby it was in 1993. Sacrebleu bar next door but two was born in December 2008 and Le Grog bar next door, specialising in rums from around the world, was added in 2016 – meaning that guests can enjoy a full evening of entertainment without leaving the road, or getting wet!

Russell said: "The success I believe is from exceptional standards of fresh food produced on the premises being paramount in all aspects of our dishes and menus, immaculate surroundings in an informal and relaxed dining environment at a price for all to afford and enjoy.

"The staff at Auberge - some of which are still here from our opening day, especially Linda! - take great pleasure in ensuring your visit is a pleasant experience.

"Our regular customers from locals to much further afield have played an important part in our growth and we still see the same faces from our first few months of trading all those years ago.



"Although the town centre has seen somewhat of a decline over the last few years, we are now complimented as a destination restaurant for every party occasion or just an intimate catch up for couples and friends and are a fantastic reason for visiting the town.

"Our menus have also moved with the times. We offer a two or three course lunch **£12.95/£15.95** from noon - 2.30pm from Monday to Friday and noon - 5pm on Saturday. On Sundays, three courses including two roasts is **£14.95**.

"We have a dinner menu comprising of two or three courses **£16.95/£19.95** available daily. The A La Carte menu is available every evening and lunchtimes on request.

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- **All menus and live music events are available to view online at auberge-brasserie.com or call 01704 530671 for more info.**

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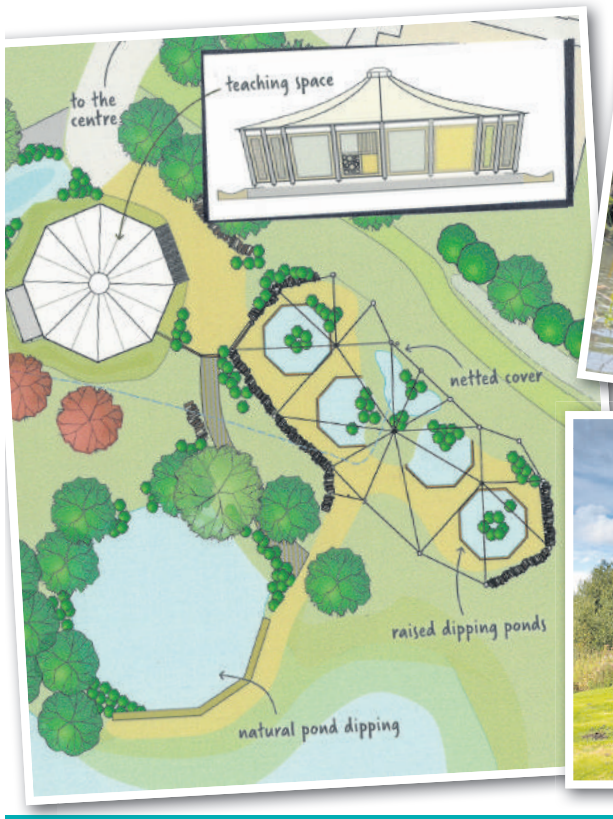
ADVERTISING FEATURE

WWT

Martin Mere news

Pondering over what to do this summer? A new development at WWT Martin Mere might provide the answer!



Work has begun this week on a major new Pond Zone development at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre.

Nick Brooks, Centre Manager at Martin Mere, welcomed the plans. He said: "Pond dipping is still one of the most favourite activities that families enjoy at Martin Mere. They get their net and delve into what is now artificial concrete ponds to see what creatures they can find – this new development will allow families to pond dip in a natural setting and it is going to be a great new attraction for us."

Ponds make perfect abodes for lots of interesting invertebrates and now visitors to the reserve will be able to meet them. The brand new attraction, generously funded by players of People's Post Code Lottery, is made up of four raised-dipping ponds, and opens to the public this summer. There is also one existing natural pond where visitors will have the opportunity to get up close to the residents.

A teaching space will also provide kids with the chance to see what they've caught under a microscope and learn about the science of wetland nature.

Nick continues: "Pond zones make for fascinating close encounters with nymphs, water boatmen and dragonflies amongst other water-dwelling life. It offers our visitors a chance to learn more about animals who thrive in these environments. "WWT is about getting up close to nature, and our new pond zone feature promises to enhance that experience for our visitors."

As well as providing technical equipment to enhance the pond dipping experience, the new timber classroom will also feature magnetic pond profiles on the walls for teaching and screens to project findings.

The water features will be draped with a netted cover to prevent birds at Martin Mere moving in and claiming the ponds for themselves.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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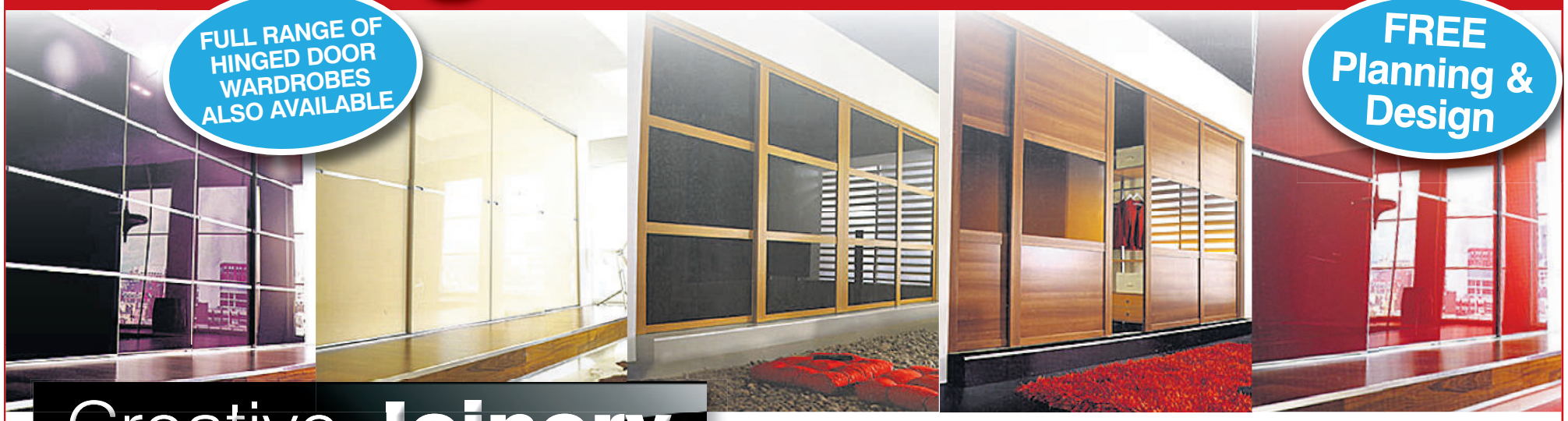

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Tracey shortlisted for national award for work on pioneering nursing service for children with autism

A MEMBER of staff with Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award for her pioneering work with children with learning disabilities and autism in Lancashire.

Tracey Hartley-Smith, integrated service leader in the Learning Disability and Complex Needs Team at the trust, is one of five finalists in the Learning Disability Nursing Award category of the Royal College of Nursing Institute's Nurse Awards 2018.

After recognising a gap in service for children with learning disabilities and autism in North Lancashire, Tracey developed a service that has led to positive outcomes for families and recognition from stakeholders.

Sponsored by NHS England, the Learning Disability Nursing Award recognises and celebrates individual learning disability nurses or teams who have used their initiative, insight and skills to make a real difference to the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of people with learning disabilities.

Tracey Hartley-Smith

Tracey said: "I'm thrilled to have got this far in the RCNI Nurse Awards 2018. What an honour!

"Previously, there was no specialist nursing service for children with learning disabilities and autism in North Lancashire so we developed a nurse-led multi-disciplinary service that is now fully established."

Tracey is now working with other NHS organisations and local commissioners to develop an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnostic pathway, planned for commencement later in the year.

The winner will be announced at the awards presentation event at the Westminster Park Plaza Hotel in London on Wednesday, July 4.

Volunteers wanted for beetle watch project

WEST Lancs residents are being urged to keep an eye out for endangered stag beetles over the next two months.

During June and July, wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is asking people to record sightings on six summer evenings, as part of an ongoing European study.

Volunteers are asked to walk 500 metres, keeping an eye out for the insects and recording sightings at stagbeetlemonitoring.org.

Stag beetles are Britain's largest land beetle. The males reach up to 7.5cm and their large, antler-like jaws make them easy to spot. Despite their appearance, they are harmless if left alone, and are more likely to be seen as warmer evenings draw them above ground to find a mate and reproduce.

Laura Bower from PTES said: "Stag beetles are reliant on dead wood and are part of the process of recycling nutrients back into the soil, making them an important part of the ecosystem."

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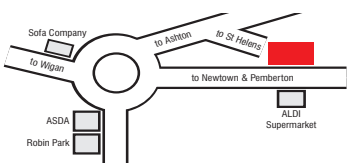

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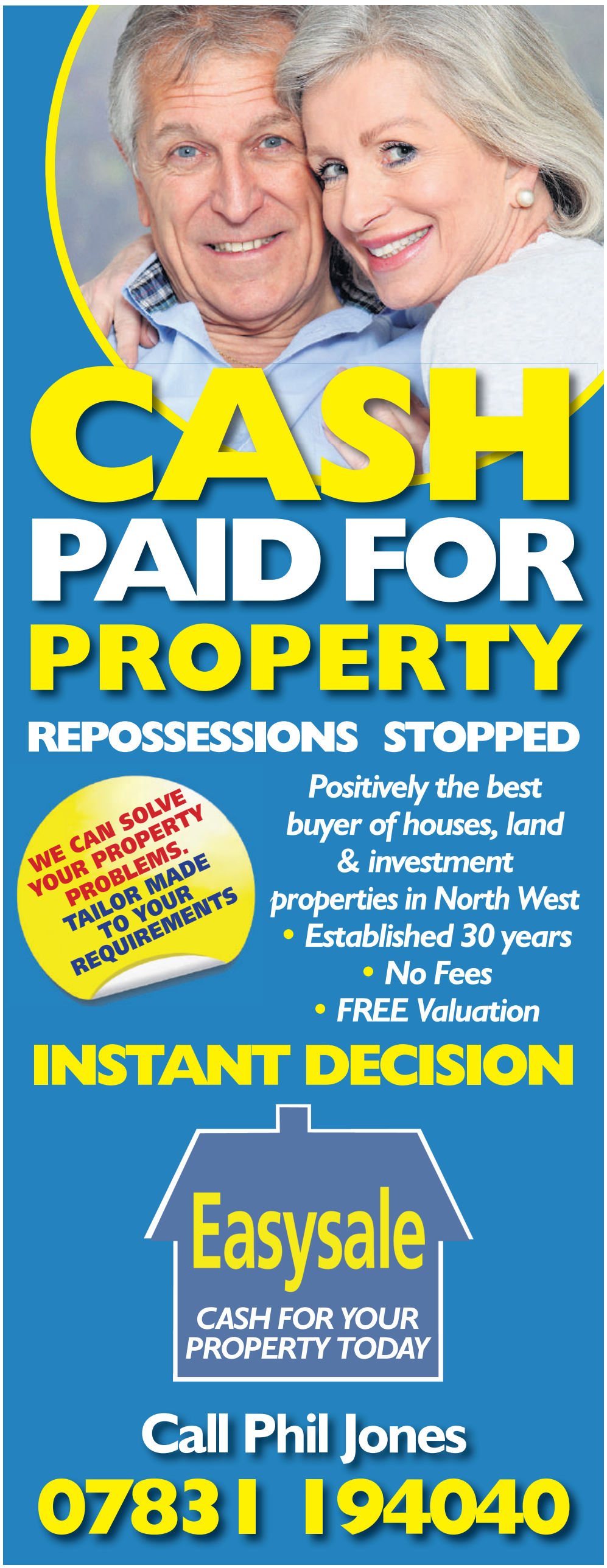

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Mersey Ferries announce their Summer Evening Cruise programme

Report by **Henry James**

THE River Mersey will be alive with the sound of music this summer when Liverpool's iconic ferries set sail for a series of evening cruises.

Mersey Ferries have announced the 2018 Summer Evening Cruise programme, with sailings taking place on Friday and Saturday nights for the first time.

The cruises offer live music from talented local artists including Marc Kenny, Callum Mac and Lucy Mayhew – who kicked off the season last Saturday, May 12.

The two-hour evening sails, which depart from Seacombe at 7.30pm and at 7.40pm from Pier Head, Liverpool offer breathtaking views of the sunset over Liverpool's unique UNESCO World Heritage Waterfront.

Passengers can experience a fully licensed paid bar and time to enjoy with their friends and family singing and dancing along on the decks of the iconic vessels.

The Summer Evening Cruises run until September and are part of Mersey Ferries' events programme, helping the city of Liverpool celebrate ten years since being named European Capital of Culture.

Alongside the evening cruises, Mersey Ferries will also host a series of special cruises, including Beatles Tribute Cruises, The Making of Motown tribute cruise and a viewing cruise for the Tall Ships, which come to the River Mersey on 28 May.

"We've got an incredible line up of talent this year for the Summer Evening Cruise programme," said Gary Evans of the Mersey Ferries.

"The cruises proved really popular last year – with over 2,600 visitors enjoying them - so we hope to see even more people this year digging out their dancing shoes and joining others for a night of fantastic entertainment."

Tickets are expected to sell out fast for many of the sailings in the Summer Evening Cruises programme this year, so for more information or to book places visit www.merseyferries.co.uk/eve, call the ticket office on 0151 330 1003, visit any Mersey Ferries Ferry Terminal or follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

Illuminated Snowdrop the Dazzle Ferry. Picture by John Davidson

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Winners of £20 are as follows:

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16880	29672
231055	108671
15582	11204
21911	188708
21681	11076
14952	13274
20564	29894
18012	29329
15631	17582

Win tickets to show

THE new show An Officer And A Gentleman - The Musical is coming to the Liverpool Empire next week (May 21-26) and the Champion has five pairs of tickets to give away.

Nikolai Foster, director of An Officer and Gentleman – The Musical said: "Douglas Day Stewart wrote An Officer and a Gentleman in response to his time serving in the American Air Force and the challenges he faced during training. It is a visceral, uncompromising and ultimately tender portrait of the personal experiences and the lives of folk living near the training facility in the early 1980s.

"We are proud to have assembled such an accomplished company of actors to create our production and realise this beautiful portrait of working class lives. All of us at Curve are excited to tell this story - set to a fantastic 80s playlist - and to be working with the talented team at Jamie Wilson Productions.

"Productions like this couldn't be made without the support of our collaborators and we are thrilled to be working with Jamie and his team. Officer will certainly be a memorable moment in our theatre's 10th birthday year."

Four-time Laurence Olivier Award nominated actress Emma Williams will play Paula Pokrifki. Emma's previous credits include Truly Scrumptious in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

To be in with a chance of winning the tickets which are for the opening night (May 21), answer this following question. Name the actor, who has also appeared in Pretty Woman and Chicago, who starred in An Officer And A Gentleman.

Please email your answers to henry.james@champnews.com by noon this Friday (May 18). The usual Champion rules apply.

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Picture House season

VOLUNTEERS at Parbold Picture House have released their summer season of films and they include the films which were award winners at this year's Oscars ceremony.

On Sunday, May 27 people can see Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri which is directed by Martin McDonagh.

It stars Frances McDormand (who received the Oscar for Best Actress); and James Rockwell (who received the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor). It also received four Golden Globes.

Human Flow can be seen on Sunday, June 3. It is an epic documentary about the global crisis of migration post WWII.

On Sunday, June 10 The Post is being screened. It is directed by Steven Spielberg and stars Meryl Streep (as Katherine Graham) and Tom Hanks (as Ben Bradlee). The film is about Washington Post's battle to uncover the truth about Vietnam.

Molly's Game can be seen on Sunday, June 24. It is directed by Aaron Sorkin (West Wing), and starring: Jessica Chastain, and Idris Elba.

It is based on the true story of an Olympic-class skier who runs the world's most exclusive high-roller poker-game and becomes an FBI target.

The Darkest Hour is being shown on Sunday, July 8. All screenings start at 7pm.

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Aug 3, 10, 17, 31		

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Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£105	£145
Jul 6, Sep 7, 14, 21, 28		
May BH 4, 25	£130	£170
Jul 13, 20, 27		
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31		

4 NTS Arrive Mondays	1 BEDROOM APARTMENT	2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£80	£130
Jul 2, 9, Sep 10, 17, 24		
May BH 28	£130	£180
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Jul 23, 30	£170 (Brean £220)	£220 (Brean £270)
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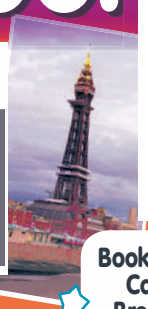

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Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£89	Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£149
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£89	Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£149
Sep 7, 14, 21, 28	£89	Sep 3, 10, 17, 24	£149
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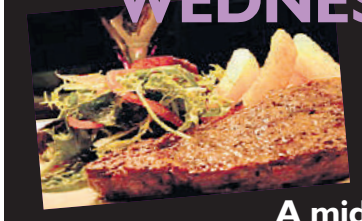

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BIKES

MENS MOUNTAIN BIKE FOR SALE Dunlop SE, 21 gears, silver and black, fully sprung frame, 24 inch wheels, good condition £65 ono Tel: 01704 879741 or 07564 674602

GENTS RALEIGH mountain bike, good condition £25. Galloway golf bag £10 01704 577058

RALEIGH GIRLS bike miss kool y frame design pink camouflage 16 " wheels □30 01704 536891

GIRLS BIKES Two girls bikes, 15 gears, 18 gears, very good condition, for 10 years to 15 years, £25 each 0151 5473166

BIKES

GENTS MOUNTAIN Yellow in colour, still in reasonable condition, several accessories, buyer to collect. £50 ono. 01695579595 or07443333891

CLOTHING

LADIES LEATHER JACKET 3/4 length, size 16/18, darkest brown. In excellent condition, hardly worn. £20 01704 211834 or 07542144019

LEATHER JACKET Mens black leather jacket, new with labels, size XXXL, £30 07951 375042

MENS JEANS Blue, Pierre Cardin, new, waist 36" leg 30" £10 01772 613634

WEDDING DRESSES Size 10, size 14, must be seen, £140 ono 07479 636445

LADIES CLOTHES All excellent condition size 14 may deliver £25 ono 0151 5263851

ADIDAS MENS trainers new in box size 9 quester boost m black/white/red bargain £25 01515319425/07773242918

FRED PERRY navy brand new genuine with FP logo size 6 shoes cost £55 now £20 no text withheld numbers 07504685036

SUMMER TOPS Per Una and M&S, new with tags, size 12-16, £3 each 01704 578971

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CLOTHING

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CROPPED JEANS Per Una, size 16 and 18, in jade, cream and lilac, brand new £8 each 01704 578971

LEATHER JACKET Gents black lined leather jacket, good quality, large size, as new £35, no texts 07564 223114

TWO-TONE DRESS size 16 with bag and shoes, size 6, beige and black, worn only once, £50 ono 07890 004167

HOTTER MELODY -BH flat shoes size 4 Beige cushioned leather insole light weight sole. perfect for summer £5 0151 5260300

NINE WEST Ladies brand new white saddle shoulder bag with tan trim with labels was £55 now £20 no text withheld number 07504685036

TED BAKER Large brandnew gift box set soap hand crème body wash body spray body lotion bubble bath gift boxed £24 07504685036

ODYSSEY WETSUIT Shorty, size medium, tall, brand new £15. Clay pigeon shooting vest, Jack Pyke green, size large, excellent condition £20 07704 354984

WHISTLES DRESS Crimson pure lace, size 12/14, worn once, cost £100, bargain £30. Place blue ladies coat, size 14, new £45 07805 210114

CLOTHING

BERGHAUS JACKET Ladies Berghaus Goretex performance shell zip in fleece jacket lining size 12 colour lilac £20 01515316205

COMPUTING

DELL DESKTOP Computer, win 10, 4G ram, 160 G HD, DVD drive, fully serviced, excellent condition. £70 07504888423

CANON PIXMA printer with seven assorted inks, regret sale but have no vision left to see printer £25 01704 222847

PS4 used once or twice, unwanted gift, comes with charger and two consoles £100 07743 368135

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UPVC DOOR 7ftx3ft white door and frame £25 07973 615583

FILING CABINET 2 drawer office metal one slight rust £5 01695 420950

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ALUMINIUM LADDERS 3X10ft extension ladder £70 07840295782

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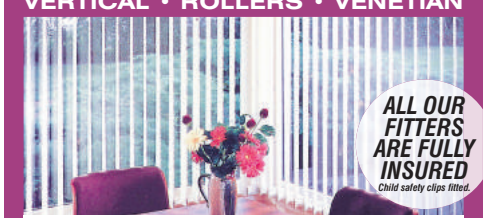
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RED OVERALLS Mens boilersuit type, size 5'9-5'11, zip front, brand new, £10 ono, Formby 07765 850104

TWO WHITE Moulded interior doors 6'6" x 33" excellent condition can deliver locally £15 each or both for £25 07967 144971

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LAWNMOWER Qualcast Concorde 14", good condition £15 0151 5268789

WHEEL BARROW Builders wheel barrow, good order £14. Phone Ormskirk 01695 573824

PETROL GARDEN chipper/shredder, hardly used, buyer to remove, cost £600, £200 ono 01704 575626

HOBBIES

LAWN BOWLS Henselite 2.10 hi density bowls,Stevens unused jack plus foot mat and bowls polish also gripper plus bag.£35.00 no offers.07506 485864

HOUSE AND HOME

CORNER UNIT mahogany £30 ono 01704 840946

2 SEATER SOFA AND ARMCHAIR IN CREAM FABRIC £50 ONO 01704 840946

CREAM OVAL Extendable table and 6 chairs. £40 07549 183733

HOUSE AND HOME

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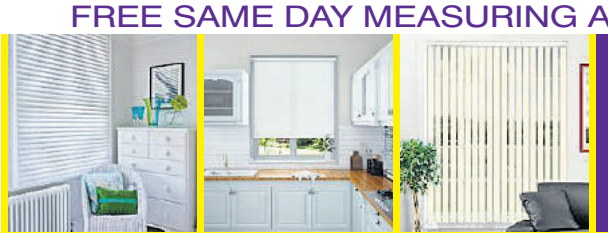
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MISC

DARTBOARD AND Cabinet unicorn excellent bargain £20 01515319425/07773242918

KARCHER car washer, still in box, cost £72, accept £40, brand new 0151 9249077

TERRANCE TRUNKIE Child's ride-on suitcase with pull-along strap, blue, good condition.£10. 07968914294

REPTILE CAGE Glass, 1'6" high, 3' wide, 1'6" deep, excellent condition, with extras, bargain £25 01695 578814

BEANBAG BEADS A large bag of new, clean white bean bag polystyrene beads, for craft work or furniture. £9. 01704 546978

SUNGLASSES New wrap around sunglasses. Dark and with UV 400 protection.£8.00 01704 546978

2 X Tickets Friday 18th May Aintree Races also The Lightning Seeds £50 for the pair 01515319425/07773242918

POND PUMP Jebao pond pump Lightweight, bit robust used as a back up for main pump £15 01695 632166

PAIR SUN LOUNGERS Unwanted gift, still boxed, cost £40 each, sell the pair £50 01695 573824

COMPUTER DESK five shelf, roll-out shelf for keyboard (inc), also mouse, monitor, W 3'3 D 2'4 H 4'10, bargain £20 01695 578814

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

LADIES TRAINERS New Balance trainers only worn a couple of times in the gym. Size 37.5 Navy/Turquoise £15 01695421338

COARSE ANGLING Complete coarse angling kit, 4 rods, 1 pole, holdall, box, brolly plus all accessories. £95 ono.sensible offers will be considered 01695579595 - 07443333891

NEW HOWSON 3 iron reg flex bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

ODYSSEY PUTTER dual force rossie II brass head bargain £15 01515319425/07773242918

PRO FITNESS treadmill, hardly used, excellent condition £120 ono, utter bargain 0151 9222961

GOLF CLUBS ram xlt irons 3-4-5-6-7-8-9-pw putter mizuno bag bargain £40 01515319425/07773242918

GOLF CLUBS ram irons 3-4-5-6-7-8-9-pw putter mizuno bag callaway 3 wood bargain £40 01515319425/07773242918

POOL TABLE 5ft Spots V Stripes table is red cloth pool balls in box 2 x pool cues Excellent Condition £60 ono 07787323036

GOLF TROLLEY Powakaddy Freeway, good condition includes battery and charger, £50 01704 229502

ROGER BLACK cross trainer, good condition £50. Rowing machine £30 or £75 for both 0151 5465784

TOYS AND GAMES

ARCADE GAME Star Wars trilogy, cost £2k plus when new, needs attention but in good condition, Offers 0151 5316093

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Jawa Ltd of 6 Chequer Lane, Upholland, Skelmersdale, WN8 0DA is applying for a licence to use Knowhow, 8 Prospect Place, Prescott Rd, Skelmersdale WN8 9QD as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicle and 0 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the traffic commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the traffic commissioners office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0415/FUL Proposed pitched roof over left side ground floor room, and slate roof and brick build-up of existing right side conservatory. Conservation style rooflights to new conservatory roof and new pitched roof at 55 Hall Road, Scarisbrick.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0422/FUL Erection of one detached bungalow at 55 Boundary Lane, Hesketh Bank.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 16th May 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT996

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- Barnes Road, Convent Close, Gore Drive, Redcliffe Gardens
- Delph Lane, Greenwood Close, Haven Brow, Moss Delph Lane, Quarry Drive, Westhaven Crescent

BURSCOUGH
- Chislett Close, Crabtree Close, Furnival Drive, Harding Road, Heaton Close, Hesketh Road, Higgins Lane, Killingbeck Close, Pickles Drive

ORMSKIRK
- Brooklands, Burscough Road, Grove Park, Lonsdale Avenue, Old Boundary Way, Pine Avenue, Pine Drive, Pine Grove

RUFF LANE
- Beech Meadow, Blairgowrie Gardens, Mill Gardens, Mill Street, Millers Court, Milton Drive, Normanhurst, Ruff Lane, Weldon Drive, Windmill Avenue, Woodlands Close

PARBOLD
- Brandreth Delph, Brandreth Park, Croasdale Drive, Lancaster Lane, Miry Lane, Park Close, Stoney Lane, The Delph

WESTHEAD
- Dicks Lane, Forge Close, Holly Close, Lunds Close, Meadow Close, School Lane, Wigan Road, Willow Bank

DIGMOOR
- Bankfield, Banksbarn, Blythewood

TAWD BRIDGE
- Ambergate, Amersham, Greenway Avenue, Hillcrest, Spencers Lane, The Mount

OLD SKELMERSDALE
- Church Road, Manor Grove, The Winsters, Wilcove, Willow Hey

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Announcements

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DEATHS

HUNTER DANNY (DANIEL)

Passed away in hospital on 9th May 2018 aged 100 years

A much loved Husband of the late Joan. Danny will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral Service will take place at Burscough Methodist Church on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 11am, followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. In lieu of flowers donations are gratefully being received on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society and The Royal British Legion. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

There's even more online! www.champnews.com

PRESCOTT IRENE

Passed away peacefully at Beaufort Care Home on 5th May 2018 aged 95 years

A much loved Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Great, Great Grandmother. Irene will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and all who knew her. Funeral Service will take place at Burscough Methodist Church on Friday 25th May 2018 at 11am, followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for North West Cancer Research Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

FIELDING DOROTHY

5th May 2018 aged 92 years
Passed away peacefully in her sleep

Dearly loved Wife of the late Philip. Much loved Mum to Pauline and Peter. Granny to Mark, Zoe and Guy. Well known and loved by many. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral to take place on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 2pm at Southport Crematorium. All are welcome to the service. Family flowers only. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997

BLUNDELL DOREEN

4th May 2018
Passed away peacefully at home aged 91 years of Scarisbrick

Devoted Wife of Jim, Much loved Mum, Mother-in-law and Grandma. Funeral Service and Interment at St. Mark's Church, Scarisbrick, on Tuesday 22nd May at 11.00am. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Rd North, Burscough. Tel: 01704 891555.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

BIRCH RALPH

5th May 2018 Peacefully in hospital aged 86 years of Upholland. Former policeman of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of the late Jean and a much loved Dad and Grandad. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for The Kidney Research Fund. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

BLEEZE JACQUELINE ANNE

Slipped away in peace in hospital aged 68 years 4th May 2018

Dearly loved wife of the Late Alan Bleeze and loving Sister to Janette, Kathleen and Robert. Loving Aunt and Great Aunt to Mara, Fiona, Edward, Gordon, Graeme, Kyle, Jack, Charlie, Grace, Ava, Kat, Louie, Martha, Jamie and Holly. The funeral Service will be held on Friday 18th May at 12:15 pm at West Lancs Crematorium and then afterwards from 1 pm at Master Mcgrath. Family flowers only please but donations if desired are being gratefully received for RSPCA, Halsall Branch and Cancer Research UK. All enquiries and donations to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk 01695 768988

DEATHS

JOYNSON PAMELA ANN (R-I-P)

8th May 2018 Aged 70 years

Dearly loved Wife of the late Edwin, much loved Mum of Karen, Mark and Debra, Mother-in-law of Jennifer and Stephen, adored Nanna of Joseph, Hannah, Oscar and Frederick. Pamela will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Requiem Mass at Holy Family R.C Church on Wednesday 23rd May at 11:15am. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1 - 5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

BROGDEN SIOBHAN

29th April 2018 Aged 63 years

Died suddenly but peacefully at home. At peace at last with her beloved Husband David. Siobhan will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Charnock Richard Crematorium, Preston Road, Charnock Richard Brow, Chorley, PR7 5JP on Thursday 24th May at 2:30pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

PEERS SHEILA

40th Anniversary 22nd May 1978

You left before we could say goodbye, we never fully understood the reason why. You were taken from us at just 29,it was far too soon to go.
Eldest daughter of Elsie & Bill Halsall, sister of Jean and mother of two young sons. You will never be forgotten.

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OH MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF MOUNT CARMEL Fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, blessed Mother of the son of God; Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour in my necessity (mention your request) There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times). Holy Mary I place this prayer in your hands (three times). Follow this with 9 hail Marys three times a day for three days to publish when prayers are answered. Prayers answered, many thanks. P.P.

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DEATHS

PENNINGTON CATHERINE
Passed away
10.05.2018

Peacefully after a short illness, loved wife of Jim, Mum to Lisa and Andrea and devoted grandma to Michael.
All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors (Ormskirk)

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DEATHS

BURMAN ELAINE (MOLLY)
6th May 2018
Aged 80 years

Dearly loved Wife of Roy. Much loved Mum of Ali and devoted Gran of Daniel. Molly will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 22nd May at 12:40pm. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for North West Air Ambulance. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR Telephone: 01704 500086.

HOSIE CALLUM LAIRD
14th May 2018
Peacefully in hospital
aged 73 years
of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Husband of Pat, loving Dad of Andy and Alison and devoted Grandad of Ella. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 2:00pm. Family flowers only please, donation if desired for Cancer Research UK. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

PARKER ANN
8th May 2018
Aged 77 years

Much loved Wife of Chris, Mother of Katherine and Hilary and Granny of Hazel, David and Michael. Ann loved her family and they will miss her so much. She had amazing courage in the face of her adversity in later years. The funeral will be at Ainsdale Methodist Church on Friday 18th May at 2.00pm, followed by internment at Ainsdale Cemetery. Flowers or donations for Muscular Dystrophy UK c/o Broadbent and Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport, Merseyside PR8 4AG. Telephone 01704 550055

LEA RUTH
Passed away peacefully on 9th May 2018 aged 98 years of Burscough

Sadly missed by all the family.
Funeral Service at St. Johns R.C.Church, Burscough on Friday 18th May at 10.00am, followed by Interment at St.Johns C.E. Churchyard, Burscough. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for North West Cancer Research. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP. Tel: 01704 891555

DEATHS

TAYLOR ANN MARIE
Nee Proctor
9th May 2018
Peacefully in Queenscourt Hospice, aged 54 years of Southport, formerly of Formby R.I.P.

Dearly loved Mum of Susanna and Rebecca, Sister of Gerry, John and Clare. Ann will be sadly missed by all her many family and friends. Requiem Mass will take place at St. Jerome's Roman Catholic Church, Formby on Friday 18th May at 11.00am followed by interment at Ainsdale Catholic Cemetery. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice or Target Ovarian Cancer. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

SUMNER ERIC
On 10th May 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 91 years

Beloved Husband of Edith, loving Dad of Lynda and Michael, dearly loved Granddad of Kirsty, Briony and Amanda and Great Grandpa of Lillie. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 22nd May at 12:00noon. 'Please do not wear all black clothes'. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Southport Offshore Rescue Trust or Alzheimer's Society. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

DEATHS

PARRY OONAGH
on 11th May 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family after a long illness
aged 83 years

Loving Wife of Colin, devoted Mum of Jeff and Jan, cherished Nan and Great-Nan of all her Grandchildren will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 18th May at 3.15pm Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Dementia UK. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funreal Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

(RE-SUBMITTED)

MOORE ANDREW JAMES (ANDY / JIM)
Passed away peacefully on 5th May 2018
Aged 90 years

Dearly loved Husband of the late Doreen. Much loved Dad of Lorraine, Tony and Jackie. Dear Father in law of Eric & Maureen. Loving Grandad of Michelle, Sarah, Katie, Lucy & Phoebe. Loved by all his Great Grandchildren. Loved & missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at St. Cuthberts Church, Halsall on Monday 21st May 2018 at 10.30am, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888.

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DEATHS

PRENTICE KENNETH (KEN)

From Upholland
on 9th May 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family, aged 79 years

Loving Husband of Clara, devoted Dad of Julie and Sharron, dear Father-in-law of Keith and Stewart, cherished Grandad of Matthew, Emily, Michael and Rebecca and Great Grandad of Scarlett, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service and interment will take place at St Pauls Church on Friday 18th May at 12.30pm. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

McSORLEY OLIVE

4th May 2018
Peacefully in hospital
aged 86 years
of Skelmersdale

A loving
Mum and Nan.

"Looking at your photo, your smile it seems so true.
No wonder our hearts are aching as we long for you.
So please God take this message to our loved one up above,
and tell her how we miss her and give her all our love."

From her ever loving Daughters Olive and Catherine, Grandchildren Kayla, Robert, Dean, Heather and Annabelle and Great Grandchildren Lacie, Jacob and Amelia.
Funeral service at Interment at St Thomas the Martyr Church, Upholland on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 10:30am.
Floral tributes welcome or donation are being gratefully received for Marie Curie.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

ROWLANDSON ROBERT (BOBBY)

6th May 2018
Peacefully after a short illness with his family around him.
Aged 74yrs

Marvellous Husband to Sheila. Wonderful Dad to Julie.Beloved Brother of Jean, John & Doris, Brother in law of Colin, Patricia & Alan. A dearly loved Uncle, Friend & Neighbour. Funeral Service taking place at Marshside Rd Methodist on Thurs 17th May at 11.45am. Followed by Committal at Southport Crematorium at 12.40pm.
Family flowers only by request,donations are being kindly received for Freshfield Animal Rescue.
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JEFFREY BERYL

Peacefully in hospital
10th May 2018
aged 79 years
of Upholland

Former
Sub Postmistress of Orrell Road Post Office.
She will be greatly missed by her Husband Brian, dearly loved Mum to Lisa and Paul and devoted Nanna to Laurie, Kelly, Rebecca and Eleanor. Funeral service and committal will take place at West Lancs Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 11.30am. No flowers by request, donations if desired for Parkinson's UK c/o the funeral director. All enquiries to R. Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd. Halliwell House, Ormskirk Road, Pemberton,Wigan. Tel (01942) 222156. www.rbanksandson.co.uk.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

DORAN SHEILA

19th May 1941

Birthday wishes to Heaven we send
Wrapped in love that will never end
Love from Sylvia, Billy, Angela, Beth and Hallie
xxxxx

DORAN SHEILA

19th May

Remembering someone special on your birthday.
'She', Happy Birthday.
Always in our hearts, missed by all.
Your Bill, Stephen, Jane, Jema and Ella
xxxxx

IN MEMORIAM

JACKSON BRENDA

14th May 2017

Mum a year has passed since you went to sleep.
Forever in my thoughts.

Lots of love
Paul
XXX

WALSH PHYLLIS

19th May 2017

In loving memory of Phyllis Walsh, whose first anniversary is 19th May.
Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered by Husband Thomas and all the family.

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14th August 1931
To
22nd May 2014

Treasured memories of a wonderful Wife,Mother,Nan and Sister.
We will always love you and cherish your memory always
from
Husband Tom,
Son Mike &
Daughter-In-Law
Doreen and
Family,Sisters
Margaret,Dorothy and
Evelyn.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AUSTIN BRIAN

The family would like to thank all who attended the funeral and the kind words of sympathy received at this difficult time. Thanks to all the medical professionals involved.
Also, a grateful thank you to Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for their caring and professional services.

MOORE ROBERT

Alan, Sheila and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy following the recent sad loss of Bob. Also for all the cards and donations for Diabetes UK Ian Moore Tribute Fund (835217) which have been received. Thanks to the District Nurses, the staff at Queenscourt Hospice, to Rev. Martin Abrams for a lovely service and to Michael and all the team of M. Rushton Funeral Directors for taking care of all the Funeral arrangements for us and their continuing support.

OLIVER DORIS

Sandy, John, Kath, Steve, Sharon and David would like to thank all their family and friends for their kindness, cards and donations received following the sad loss of their Mum Doris and to thank all those who attended her funeral. Grateful thanks to Reverend Pauline Bicknell for the comforting service and to Sally and the team at MLS Funeral Directors for their professional care and support. Thanks also to the Yew Tree for the refreshments.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WILSON SHIRLEY

Tony, Christine and Andrew would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy and to those who attended the funeral service following the sad loss of Shirley, Wife of the late Colin, Mum, Nana and Great Nana. Donations to Queenscourt Hospice gratefully received. Thanks also to Dr. A Kazich from Beacon Primary Care and to Rev. Pauline Bicknell for her kind ministrations. Finally thanks to MLS Independent Funeral Directors, especially Margaret Hunter for all her professional care, kindness and support.

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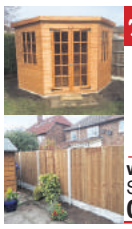

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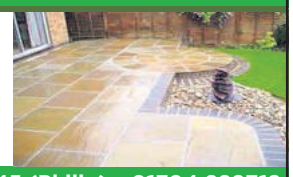

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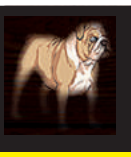

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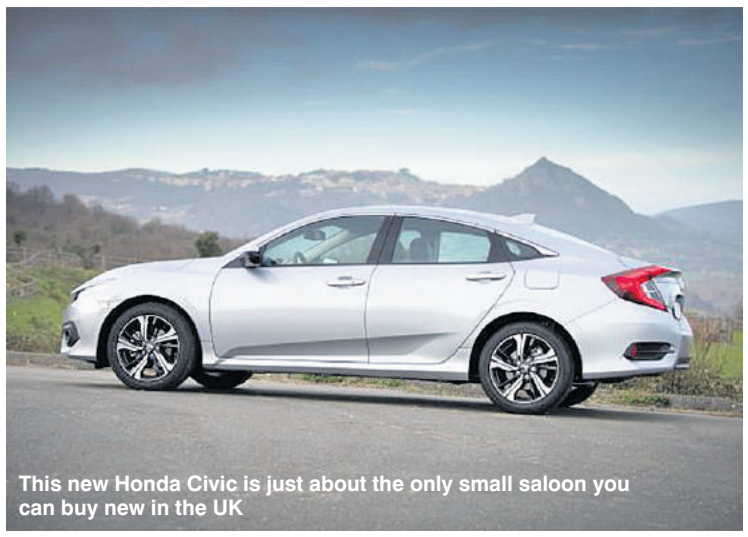

This new Honda Civic is just about the only small saloon you can buy new in the UK

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

ARE YOU the sort of tortured soul who gets all misty-eyed over the Ford Orion? Or that discerning driver who wishes that Vauxhall could bring the Belmont back?

Don't worry, it's not a trick question. I know that there really are people out there who thought both of these Eighties offerings were thoroughly sensible – if utterly style-free - small saloons that weren't to be sniffed at.

It's only in the following decade, when the fat-bottomed brethren of the Escort and Astra became joyrider favourites and popped up regularly on *Police, Camera, Action* that they finally lost their appeal as unpretentious shopping chariots and slipped firmly into banger-dom. But if you're the sort of person who looks back fondly on the Triumph Acclaim and is utterly baffled by today's fashion-conscious off-roaders when all that people should really want is a cheap, reliable saloon, then you'd be forgiven for wondering what happened to the Orion's ilk. Ford hasn't sold a Focus saloon for nearly a decade and Vauxhall gave up with booted Astras a long time ago. If you want a new car with a proper boot rather than one of these newfangled hatchbacks then you have to go up a size to the Audi A4s and Jaguar XEs of this world.

Unless, of course, you go knocking at Honda's door in about two months' time. Despite the best efforts of some *Blade Runner*-esque styling and a mad Type-R hot hatch version the Civic is still proving a hit with the sort of sensible Brits who just want a normal, reliable car.

So introducing a four-door saloon version is a stroke of genius. Unlike its hatchback cousin this new Civic isn't being built at Swindon – it's actually being bolted together at Honda's Turkish factory – but otherwise it's business as usual, with a 1.0-litre petrol or a 1.6-litre turbodiesel doing all the hard work beneath the bonnet.

It'll have the same boringly solid interior materials too, but because the new arrival's longer and wider than the hatchback it'll be even roomier on the inside. There's no word on pricing yet, but if it's anything like the five-door model you should be able to slip into one for under £20,000.

It's just a shame that Honda's fallen at the final hurdle. In order to be a proper small saloon the new Civic needed to look exactly like the hatchback with a really awkward boot grafted onto its rump and only be available in beige, white, or grey.

Instead, they've made it given it a lovely, coupe-esque profile, set off by metallic colours and alloy wheels that set the shape off without shouting too loudly.

Whisper it quietly, but I think it might actually look better than the hatchback it's based on. That, Honda, just won't do. Back to the drawing board, chaps!

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Mooney sweeps up awards for Skem

LONG serving defender Phil Mooney was named player of the year at Skelmersdale United's end of season awards ceremony, ***writes Neil Leatherbarrow.***

Held at Skelmersdale Cricket Club last week, it was a very well supported event and saw Mooney become the star of the night.

Apart from a brief spell, the defender has been with Skem since he was a 16-year-old and he picked up the Supporters' Player of the Year and the Players' Player of the Year trophies.

Mooney is presently the longest serving player on Skelmersdale United's books and his recognition is a big thank you for his loyalty over the years.

Further awards went to central-defender Josh Wardle who picked up the Manager's Player of the Year award from manager Dave Powell.

Josh was one of Powell's first signings when he became manager and has been a virtual ever-present since.

The Young Player of the Year award went to left-back Jack Fleming, who joined the club from AFC Liverpool and has done particularly well.

Bevan Burey was also awarded for making the most appearances for the club this season with 43 outings.

Long serving former board member and kit manager Mike Boardman was handed the position as President of the club.

Mike has been at the club in an official capacity for around 30 years and has followed the club since he was a child. He was very proud to receive the position.

Skelmersdale finished second to bottom in the league but avoided relegation with only one team going down.

They finished the campaign poorly, failing to win in any of the last five matches, but they will hope to bounce back and come back stronger next season.

Josh Wardle receives Manger's Player of Year from Dave Powell. Picture by John Driscoll

Linnets eye cup final glory against promotion winners

BURSCOUGH were due to face Widnes on Tuesday, May 15 in the Macron Challenge Cup final, before the Champion went to print.

The Linnets, having already celebrated avoiding relegation in the league, will be hoping to add silverware to cap off an impressive end to the season.

It was scheduled to be played at Fleetwood Town's impressive Highbury Stadium, the League One club once again hosting the final.

It's fair to say that Widnes were favourites going into the game, having finished 46 points ahead of Burscough in the league, on their way to clinching promotion to the Evo-Stik League.

But Burscough put in a string of impressive performances in the closing weeks of the season, winning six of their last seven games to finish eight points clear of the relegation zone.

After such a strong end to the season, Burscough manager Dave Sutton believed that the final represented an important step in the club's plans to push on next season.

Dave said before the match: "If we can win, and having stayed in the league as well, that would be a good season for us. We've got a decent set of lads and we can then build on that for next season.

"We have lost both league games against Widnes, but I thought we should have taken something from the games as we were the better team in spells.

"We always seem to play well against the top sides and lose against the lower teams. But I don't mind who we are playing really, we are in the final and that is all that matters.

"We have achieved something to reach a cup final, and if we win and get a team photo of the team holding up the cup, then what more could you want?"

Baybutt and Bohannon set up big win for Ormskirk

ORMKSIRK moved up to fourth place of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division with a comprehensive 122 run win at Lytham, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

Opener Andy Baybutt 76, Josh Bohannon 74 and an unbeaten 38 from George Lavelle enabled the visitors to declare on 224-3.

In reply, skipper Ben Saunders top scored with 29 for Lytham who were bowled out for 102, with Tom Hartley 3-13 and Ryan Maddock 3-21 taking the bulk of the wickets.

The following day they easily beat Chorley at home in the ECB National Championship.

Gary Knight top scored with 66 as Ormskirk scored 220-6 in their 40 overs.

Chorley were then dismissed for 149 as only Will Moulton with 63 scored a substantial score with Tom Hartley claiming four wickets for 21 runs and Scott Lees 3-28 as Ormskirk won by 71 runs.

League victory at Lytham followed by success over Chorley in National Cup

It's still tight at the top of the Premier League table with the top three of Formby, Northern and Bootle separated by just three points, Formby moved top with a five wicket home win against Rainford

The visitors chose to bat first and were dismissed for 135, with Comfrey Edgeworth 51 and skipper David Snellgrove 39 the only batsman to offer much resistance against an attack brilliantly led by Ben Aitchison who claimed 5-23 off 14 overs. In reply, Karl Brown 39 and Lukman Vahaluwala 36 set the hosts on their way before Ollie Sutton 9* saw them to victory on 136-5.

A closely fought contest at Wadham Road saw the hosts Bootle beat previously unbeaten leaders Northern by six runs, after electing to bat the hosts struggled to 114 all out with Will Purser unbeaten on 30* whilst the majority of his team mates struggled to cope with Liam Grey who returned with a haul of 8-46 from 18 overs.

In reply, skipper James Cole 39 and Chris Laker 24 put the visitors in a strong position on 80-3, before a superb spell of bowling led by Chris Liptrot 5-54 and Purser 4-36 saw Northern lose their last seven wickets for 24 runs as they were dismissed for 108.

Burscough denied by last wicket stand

BURSCOUGH were held to a tightly fought draw in their First Division match at Liverpool.

Choosing to bat first Burscough declared on 201-8 with Ryan Hughes 61, Mark Crowley 50 and Alan Murray 43 scoring the bulk of the runs, whilst Peter Kelly took 4-78 with the ball.

In reply, three quick wickets from Chris Andrews helped reduce the hosts to 19-5.

But an unbeaten last wicket stand of 57* between keeper Harry Cross 29* and Kelly 28* saved the hosts from defeat, with Andrews claiming 3-27 and Daniel Unsworth 3-33.

Ainsdale moved up to second place with a comfortable eight wicket win at Wavertree.

The hosts slipped from 72-1 to 141 all out with Theo O'Brien 65 and Tom Oughterson 48 scoring the majority of the runs, whilst Joe Lowe was in fine form with the ball with 5-57. In reply, skipper Andy Barlow weighed in with 26 before Mark Lucas 598 and Stephen Lucas 42* led the visitors to victory on 142-2.

Southport & Birkdale were unable to make it three consecutive wins after Newton le Willows showed no intention of chasing down their target and just about held on for a draw at Trafalgar Road.

The hosts chose to bat first and managed to post 165 up on the board, with Australian Alex Trimboli top scoring with 43, whilst plenty of others made decent starts but failed to capitalise on a slow outfield that didn't give the batsmen value for their shots

In reply, the visitors were reduced to 4-2 and from that moment on were never interested in winning the match, skipper Chris Firth juggled his bowlers around and even a wicket with what turned out to be the final delivery wasn't enough as Newton closed on 99-9 with Chris Cunningham taking 3-25.

Skelmersdale undone by Zimbabwean youngster

IN the Second Division, Skelmersdale were beaten by four wickets at home to Hightown St Mary's.

The hosts elected to bat first but soon dismissed for just 75 with Zimbabwean youngster Jayden Schadendorf taking 5-25 and Jim Kelly 4-13 with the ball.

In reply, the visitors also struggled with the bat and an unbeaten 45* from opener Arslan Dar proved to be the difference as the sealed victory on 77-6 with Matthew Fenney taking 3-17.

Maghull finally got their first victory of the season with an 87 run win at Northop Hall, skipper Paul Walters 82, Jon Ring 75 and 26 from Cam Lawrenson enabled the visitors to declare on 239-8 with James Hurlin 4-71 and Josh Andrady 4-89 taking the wickets to fall. In reply, Anthony Molloy 4-45 and James Stanley 3-14 were on form with the ball as the hosts were dismissed for 152.

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